

FALL 2015

ROOSEVELT

REVIEW

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Roosevelt's new president,
Ali Malekzadeh, talks
about his career and plans
for the University. **PAGE 22**



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Meet Patricia Harris,
Roosevelt's new
chair of the Board
of Trustees.





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UNIVERSITY**

FALL 2015

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 @RUPrezAli

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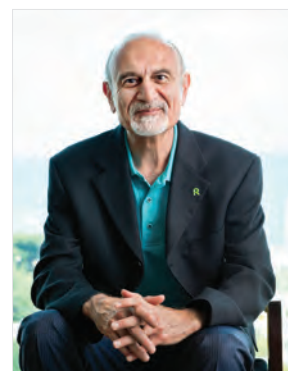
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ON THE COVER

Ali Malekzadeh, former dean of business at Kansas State University, became Roosevelt's sixth president on July 1.

Read about his career and plans for Roosevelt on page 22.



Have a question?
We can help.

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Have a comment?
Connect with us.



"Got to meet President Ali Malekzadeh today at move in! So excited for all the new things he will do for Roosevelt!"

@shellbell94 AUGUST 15, 2015

Follow Roosevelt on Instagram: [instagram.com/rooseveltu](https://www.instagram.com/rooseveltu)



"To the freshman at @RooseveltU: study hard & get to know your professors. They are great mentors w/connections in all fields." #RUFIRSTDAY

@RepMikeQuigley AUGUST 28, 2015

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"You r the best! Roosevelt University of Chicago! Great memories."

Frisko Saint Adams SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

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EVENTS



Performances

DEC 5

JazzFest

Jazz Showcase,
806 S. Plymouth Ct.

JAN 31

Symphony Orchestra Concert

Harris Theater for
Music and Dance
205 E. Randolph Dr.

FEB 18-21

Legally Blonde the Musical

A hilarious and
heart-warming
musical production
O'Malley Theatre

MARCH 2

Symphony Orchestra and the Professional Diploma in Opera Young Artists

Studebaker Theater,
410 S. Michigan Ave.

MARCH 18-19

Undergraduate Opera Concert

Ganz Hall



CCPA JazzFest

MARCH 18-21

The 39 Steps

A fast-paced whodunit
O'Malley Theatre

MARCH 29

Vivid 2016

CCPA Annual Showcase
Auditorium Theatre

APRIL 9

CCPA Conservatory Choirs with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

Trinity Christian College

APRIL 9-10

Graduate Opera

Monteverdi's *The
Coronation of Poppea*
Studebaker Theater,
410 S. Michigan Ave.

APRIL 15

Student Composition and Dance Collaboration

Ganz Hall

APRIL 28-MAY 1

The Baker's Wife

A bittersweet and offbeat
fable of life, love and bread
O'Malley Theatre

Sports

NOV 2

Women's Basketball vs. UIC

UIC Pavilion

NOV 24

Men's Basketball vs. UIC

UIC Pavilion

DEC 21-22

Women's Basketball

Roosevelt Holiday
Hoops Tournament
Goodman Center

JAN 27

Men's Basketball vs. St. Ambrose

Goodman Center

FEB 13

Men's and Women's Basketball vs. St. Xavier

Goodman Center

MARCH 29

Softball vs. St. Xavier

Rosemont, Ill.

APRIL 2

Baseball vs. Robert Morris

Crestwood, Ill.

APRIL 30

Baseball vs. Trinity International

Crestwood, Ill.

MAY 5-7

CCAC Softball Tournament

Rosemont, Ill.

Enrollment

JAN 30

Junior and Senior Visit Day

Chicago Campus

FEB 20

Scholars Day

Chicago Campus

MARCH 12

Admitted Student Undergraduate Preview Day

Chicago Campus

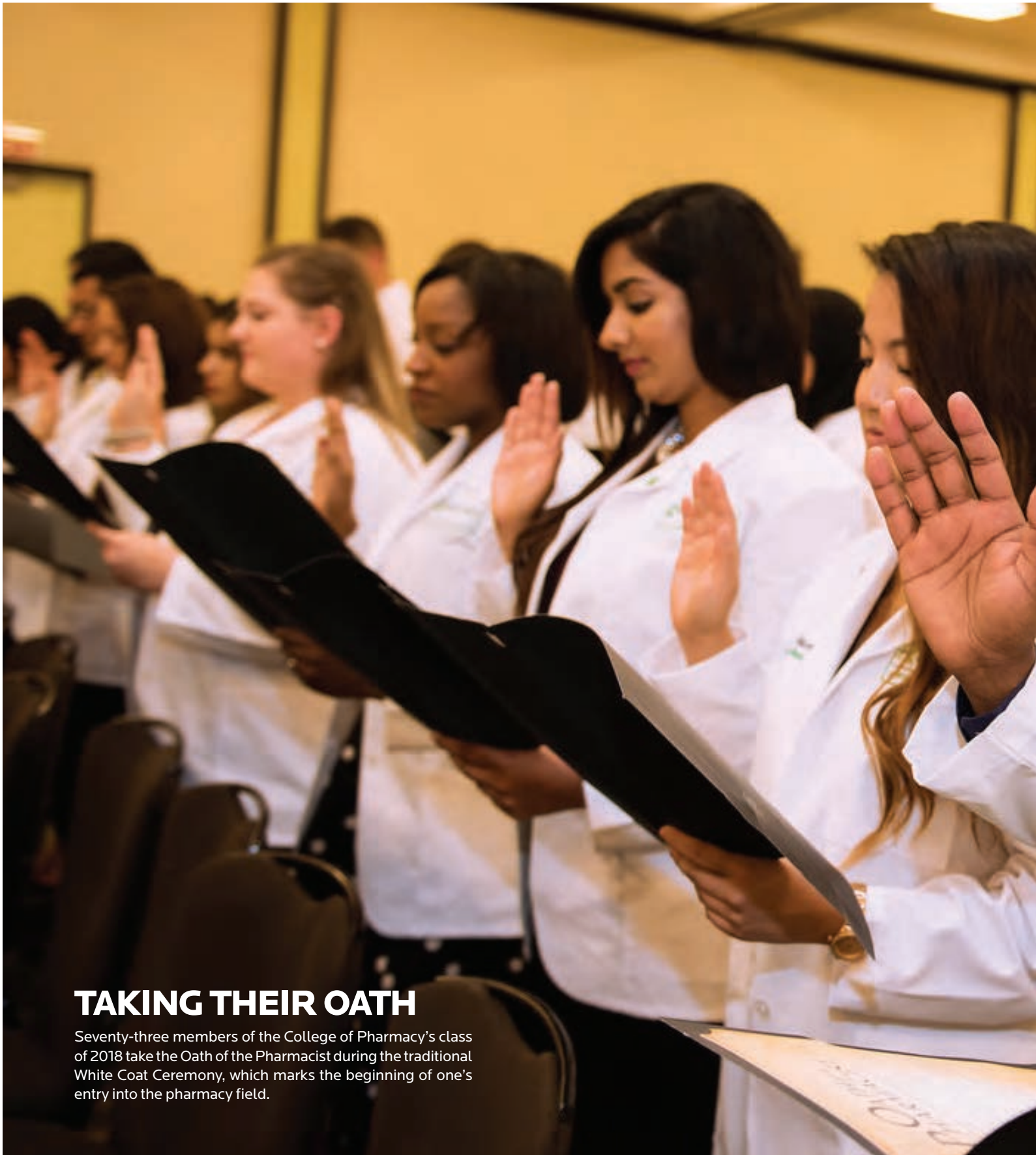
APRIL 2

Admitted Student Undergraduate Preview Day

Chicago Campus



**View a full
list of events at
[roosevelt.edu/
calendar](http://roosevelt.edu/calendar)**



TAKING THEIR OATH

Seventy-three members of the College of Pharmacy's class of 2018 take the Oath of the Pharmacist during the traditional White Coat Ceremony, which marks the beginning of one's entry into the pharmacy field.





Forward Looking

BY ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ALI R. MALEKZADEH

MY FIRST WEEKS AND MONTHS

as Roosevelt University's sixth president have flown by in a blur of excitement, challenges and surprises.

Every day brings a barrage of new information and requests for decisions and solutions to problems. I am very humbled to have been entrusted with this remarkable opportunity to lead one of America's distinctive universities into the future.

Last spring Roosevelt University celebrated its founding in 1945 when the president and faculty of the YMCA College courageously refused to comply with the prevailing custom of racial and religious admission quotas. Now – as we enter our 70th academic year – we look forward to a new phase of our history. What should we be? What can we be? What will we be?

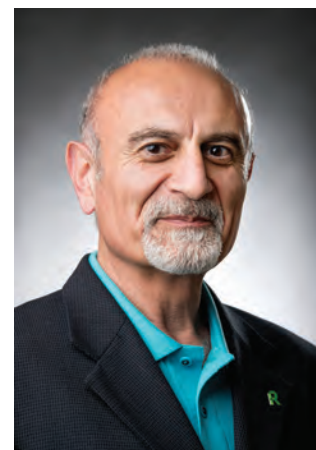
We know what we are. We are an urban – and suburban – university. We have an unusually racially and economically diverse population of students. We offer the opportunity to study in a variety of programs in one of the greatest cities in the world. We have a first-rate faculty who teach in beautiful and prizewinning buildings. We are the only comprehensive nonsectarian university in downtown Chicago. Our alumni have great achievements in all kinds of domains – including politics, the visual and performing arts, science, health professions, business, education and other fields. We have a long tradition of engaging with the larger community and wrestling with social issues and problems. We have a national and international reputation as an advocate of democratic values, academic freedom, equal opportunity and social justice.

We also know that our first step must be to increase undergraduate and graduate enrollment, which is imperative for our financial well-being. We must have the programs in place to ensure higher retention and graduation rates. We must turn to our community for help in raising the additional dollars that support scholarships, laboratories, faculty development and student life. We must carefully examine our structure and operations to make sure we are effective and fiscally responsible stewards of our educational mission. And we owe our community a clear and compelling vision of who we are today and why we are a great choice for students.

As we enter our 70th academic year, we look forward to a new phase of our history.

Will you help us achieve these goals? Will you participate in our future? We would value your help in many ways – by your presence at University celebrations, lectures and workshops and by your active involvement in alumni chapters and fundraising.

I hope to visit with many of you this next year at these various occasions, and to learn how Roosevelt made a difference in your life.



I also hope you will consider working with me on two new ideas meant to improve Roosevelt student retention and graduation: an undergraduate mentoring program and an undergraduate professional development program. I led both activities in the business college at Kansas State University, impacting thousands of students, and would like to bring these programs to Roosevelt undergraduates to advance their confidence, skills and ability to succeed. But I will need your help. Please watch for announcements as we plan the best way to implement these programs at Roosevelt.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." I believe that Roosevelt University can become a great university for new generations of students, with a central role to play in the city of Chicago and in higher education nationally. That is my dream – and I hope your dream too – and I look forward to working together to make it happen. ☑

Ali Malekzadeh welcomes your comments. Email him at amalekzadeh@roosevelt.edu.



BY LAURA JANOTA

RISING ABOVE

The St. Clair Drake Center's new Black Male Leadership Academy is encouraging dozens of Chicago Black male teens to have confidence and think big.

It's an experience – and message – that 16-year-old Isiah Sheppard has taken to heart, following a dream to produce an award-winning documentary about Roosevelt University's founding that is paving the way for a promising future.





ISIAH SHEPPARD'S award-winning documentary about Roosevelt University's founding is as much about leadership as it is about history, which isn't surprising given his participation in the University's Black Male Leadership Academy (BMLA).

In the nine-minute video that was a finalist in this year's Chicago and Illinois state history fairs, Sheppard sounds older and wiser than his 16 years as he ponders the meaning of leadership, a trait that his BMLA mentors – all successful black men at Roosevelt – have modeled and encouraged.

"What does it mean to be a leader?" Sheppard asks as the camera pans Chicago's skyline for the piece that includes interviews with retired Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton and University Historian Lynn Weiner.

"To have courage?" he continues, hitting on a theme of the documentary that traces the actions of a leader, Roosevelt's pioneering first president Edward J. Sparling.

"To put your livelihood on the line for the greater good of others?" he asks, spotlighting Sparling's principled decision to found Roosevelt in 1945 as a place where blacks, Jews and other minority groups would be welcomed, even as other colleges, using admission quotas, turned them away.

"It's impressive that someone so young would delve into something like this," said Weiner, who was struck during interviews for the documentary by Sheppard's formal appearance in suit and tie and questions he'd prepared in advance. "It says a lot about a program that's obviously succeeding in building bridges to African American males, giving them the confidence and opportunity to achieve great things."

Started in the summer of 2014 by Roosevelt's St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies, the BMLA reaches out to promising young black teens who are entering their sophomore year of high school, helping them build up four capitals: intellectual capability, cultural experience, social grace and leadership skills.

So far, 34 black male teens, including Sheppard, have participated in the program that is now in its second year of operation. The program offers a one-week summer session that was held July 21-24 as well as programming on the second Saturday of every month at the University.

"Initially, I wanted the Drake Center to do more outreach into the community," said Al Bennett, director of the Center that is named for the late St. Clair Drake, a Roosevelt professor whose pioneering work in African American studies is legendary. "As I looked for opportunities, I began to think about black boys and wondered what we as an institution could do to help prepare them to go out in the world and be successful."

From that brainstorm sprang the BMLA, a college-preparatory, life-skills and cultural-awareness program pairing talented but at-risk black males from Chicago high schools with African American male students, faculty and staff at Roosevelt.

Initially the concept wasn't a hit, according to Bennett, who remembers being asked, "But what about girls?" To which he replied: "We've got to start out by helping the least advantaged, and at this juncture in our society, it is black males who are most at risk for failure."



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

As part of the BMLA experience, teens and their mentors from Roosevelt University take a number of field trips that help them get to know Chicago better.

“IF WE RAISE THE BAR ON WHAT’S POSSIBLE, I BELIEVE THESE KIDS WILL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE.”

MICHAEL FORD, ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY CHIEF OF STAFF

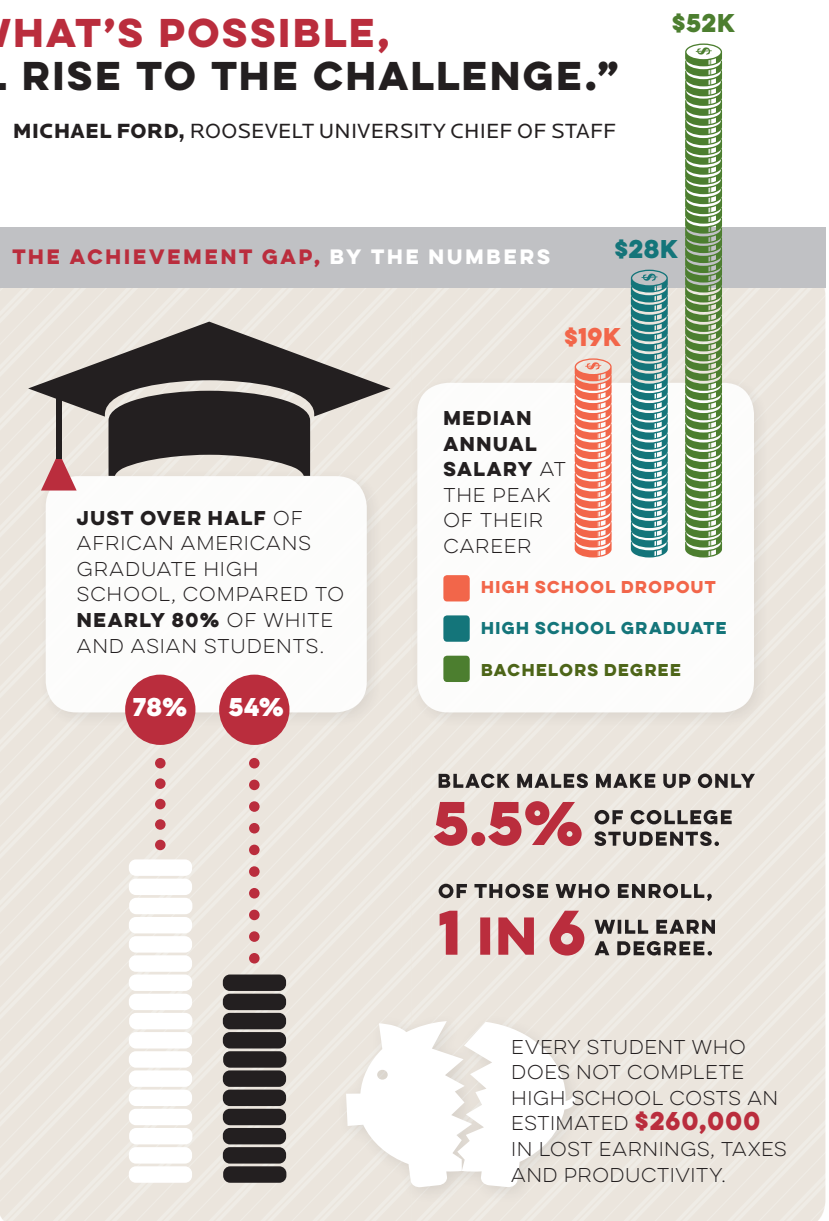
Bennett’s research into specifics bears out the sad reality. African American males are behind other groups in reading scores, in graduating from high school and in attending and graduating from college. Meanwhile, they are at enormous risk for spending time in prison, living below the poverty line and being unemployed.

Bennett broached his idea for the BMLA about two years ago with Roosevelt University Honorary Trustee Robert Johnson, a 1958 alumnus who had studied with and was mentored while at Roosevelt by Drake.

“I was from a poor neighborhood and I wasn’t a very good high school student,” said Johnson, who has written a personal essay (see page 16) that spells out why he decided to financially support a three-year pilot of the BMLA. “I knew I could have been one of those who failed,” said Johnson, the first African American vice president of Sears Roebuck and Co. “When I heard about the concept, I thought ‘This program might have a chance to make a difference.’”

Additional financial support for the pilot came from Chicagoan Margery Feitler and Elissa Efroymsen, vice chair of the Efroymsen Family Fund. “The world we live in is competitive and I believe that kids from a young age need to know what they must do in order to compete,” said Feitler.

“There are many young people who are talented and smart but who need an opportunity to meet and be inspired by others to let them know paths they may take themselves,” added Efroymsen. “That’s why I wanted to help. I believe this project can become a national model.”



SOURCES: Alliance for Excellent Education; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, PBS.org, Council of the Great City Schools



GAME CHANGERS

In its very first year, Roosevelt's BMLA wins a Game Changer award from the city of Chicago in 2014.

Winner of the prestigious Game Changer award from the city of Chicago's One Summer Chicago in 2014, the BMLA currently is being evaluated by Roosevelt's Policy Research Collaborative for data/evidence that could take the program to the next level.

Before entering the BMLA in the summer of 2014, Sheppard had never walked along Chicago's Magnificent Mile or been inside the Lyric Opera House or Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art; he didn't have a passport; and hadn't been away from home for any length of time, until spending a week during the last two summers in a Roosevelt Wabash Building dorm suite with his BMLA "brothers."

"I loved being able to stay at the University," said Sheppard, now a junior at Westinghouse High School on Chicago's West Side. "My experiences in the BMLA have me hooked on the idea of living on campus when I go to college."

During the program, Sheppard met African American men from Roosevelt whose experience as mentors meant so much that they wrote personal essays for the University's Social Justice Blog.

Frank Pettis, a political science major and May 2015 Roosevelt graduate, shared his own struggle in learning to read, an experience that bonded him with a teen who stumbled aloud over words in the BMLA syllabus. "He seemed nervous, but no one laughed. No one heaped scorn," Pettis wrote of the encounter. "I patted him on his back. 'I know the struggle bro, just keep reading,' I told him. 'The more you struggle the more it will go away.'"

"These youth are not stereotypical black males of their generation. They are my little brothers. I plan to see them grow and mature into successful black men," wrote another mentor, Roosevelt journalism major Joshua Hicks.


One mentor in particular, Michael Ford, chief of staff to Roosevelt's president, has been a positive role model for BMLA participants.

"He (Ford) taught me how to compose an email with a nice opening, good grammar and a professional closing," said Sheppard, who then contacted Roosevelt's historian for interviews for his school and history fair project.

Ford recalls brainstorming with Sheppard on options for approaching the topic that was listed as a project possibility on the Chicago Metro History Fair website. He encouraged Sheppard to take it from there.

"My role is to try and help these guys visualize and actualize their ideas," said Ford, who believes the number-one challenge for BMLA participants is to get beyond society's low expectations and negative stereotypes of black men. "If we raise the bar on what's possible, I believe these kids will rise to the challenge. Here's a project with no limitations and look at how far it went."

When Sheppard's high school history teacher, Linda Becker, first saw Sheppard's documentary on Roosevelt's founding, she recalls being "absolutely blown away" by its content, including images and mention of some of Roosevelt's famous African American male students like the late Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis and composer and instrumentalist Anthony Braxton.



“MY EXPERIENCES IN THE BLACK MALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY HAVE ME HOOKED ON THE IDEA OF LIVING ON CAMPUS WHEN I GO TO COLLEGE.”

ISIAH SHEPPARD
RECENT GRADUATE OF ROOSEVELT'S BMLA

“Isiah used to be quiet. With this project, he seems to have become more comfortable with himself. Besides academic skills, he’s improved his networking skills and become more outgoing and social,” she said.

One of those whom Sheppard has networked with extensively is fellow Westinghouse High School student Kendall Relf, a fellow BMLA participant who helped Sheppard edit his documentary on Roosevelt’s founding. “Before the BMLA, Isiah and I knew each other a little, but now we’re great friends,” said Relf.

The two BMLA participants co-founded an after-school club at Westinghouse, Potato Lounge, where they write sketches and produce a TV comedy series about life in high school called “Room 210.”

A musician who plays guitar, piano, bass and drums, Sheppard credits another of his black male mentors in the BMLA, Roosevelt musical theatre major Jalen Eason, with helping him brainstorm ideas for the new comedy series.

“The biggest thing I try to get across is getting these guys to understand how important it is to get an education,” said Eason, who, like Sheppard, had family support, but few other African American male mentors while growing up in Ann Arbor, Mich. “Without an education, most black men in America are likely to face a lot of trials and tribulations,” Eason said.

Sheppard’s mother, Aida Roldan, said she hopes her son will consider Roosevelt University as a college option.

“My son has been motivated since he did the documentary,” she said. “Now, he wants to do more. He wants to be more. He wants to succeed more. I give a lot of credit to Roosevelt and the BMLA for helping him to come such a long way.”

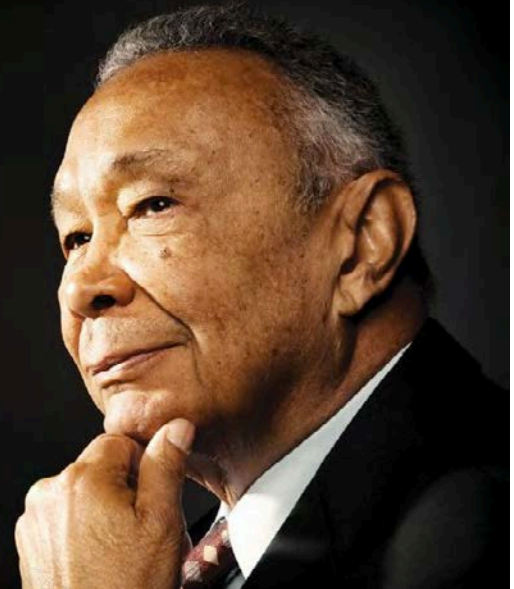
View Sheppard’s award-winning documentary on the University’s founding: www.roosevelt.edu/sheppard

Read about BMLA mentors’ experiences on Roosevelt’s Social Justice Blog: blogs.roosevelt.edu/socialjustice

BMLA participant Isiah Sheppard wants to go to college, and is considering Roosevelt University as one of his choices.

Addressing the Need for More Black Males to Attend College

BY ROBERT L. JOHNSON, ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY HONORARY TRUSTEE



For many years, I have been concerned about problems created when large numbers of black youth fail to succeed during their middle and high school years. This concern is most likely a result of my own experiences attending school in Chicago. I graduated from Du Sable High School in the early 1950s. I was an average student and didn't fully appreciate the value of working hard in high school until my senior year. That was over 60 years ago when the benefits and demands of college weren't as well understood as they are today.

However, even then my limited knowledge came with a rude awakening. I enrolled in Crane Junior College in 1953. At my initial meeting with the college advisor, I was informed that my chances of succeeding at Crane were slim. If I chose to enroll, I was encouraged to register for remedial classes, quit my job and take a maximum of three courses. Despite this rather jolting analysis, I believed in myself and embraced the goal of attaining a degree. It is this belief – that success can be attained even when the odds are against you – that led me to

support a new program at Roosevelt University called the Black Male Leadership Academy (BMLA).

I decided to become involved in this effort fully aware of the statistics that have led some to say that black males are in crisis. Nationally, only 52 percent of black males in the class of 2012 graduated from high school, compared to 78 percent of their white male counterparts. In Chicago, the black-white high school graduation gap is larger: only 39 percent of black males in the class of 2012 graduated from a Chicago Public School high school, compared to 66 percent of white males.

After high school, the black-white educational gap further increases, resulting in continued decline of young black males at every major graduation point. Nationally, white males are two times more likely to graduate from a public two-year college than black males. The statistics at four-year universities and colleges are also bleak. According to the Congressional Black Caucus, black males ages 18 and older make up just 5.5% of all college students and of the black males who enroll in college, only one in six (approximately 17%) will receive a college degree.

In 1958 I graduated with a BA degree from Roosevelt University and later served as a member of Roosevelt's Board of Trustees. Last year, I learned that the University's St. Clair Drake Center was developing a new approach to assisting black males in the Chicago Public Schools. After several meetings with Drake Center director Al Bennett, I decided to financially support the program for three years.

I'm interested in the BMLA because it is a simple and direct innovation that addresses two important parts of a successful career: who you know and what you know. The program has two components, the Summer Institute and Second Saturdays. The Summer Institute takes place for one week on Roosevelt's Chicago Campus. During the week, approximately 20 male students live in the dorms, attend classes and go to a wide range of social and cultural events. The second component is for students who are graduates of the Summer Institute. They come to Roosevelt for a half-day on the second Saturday of each month (October to May) to participate in a range of intellectual and social activities including mentoring, college preparation and visitations, and ACT and SAT test preparation.

The program's goal is to have all of the young men who participate in this effort complete high school and enroll in a college that is a good fit for them. A major part of the program is a required evaluation of outcomes. It is important to know what happens to these young men both in the short term and long term. If it works, we want to know why and if it doesn't, we want to know why not. However, whether we succeed in meeting our program goals, I believe that those who participate will benefit in some way.

Colleges and universities are ideal places to develop and implement innovative programs that address the needs of black males. I realize that there are no silver bullets to the complex challenges that our young men face, but I encourage those who can provide resources to develop innovative programs like the Black Male Leadership Academy to do so.

Robert Johnson of Evanston, Ill. was the first African-American Vice President of Sears, Roebuck & Company.

A man in a grey suit and dark tie stands with his arms crossed in a television control room. Behind him are numerous monitors displaying various video feeds, including sports and news. In the foreground, there are racks of electronic equipment and a desk with a remote control and a small bowl.

BY TOM KAROW

SIGNING OFF

Roosevelt alumnus **RICK NIEMAN** (BA, '87) reminisces about his career and being one of Holland's most influential television journalists.



Rick Nieman, a Roosevelt alum and well-known journalist in Holland, interviewed President Bill Clinton when he visited Rotterdam in 2007 to talk about the Clinton Global Initiative.

When Rick Nieman stepped down this spring as anchor of RTL News in Amsterdam after 19 years in front of the camera, he was surprised at the tributes he received.

“I got many emails and even old-fashioned post cards from viewers who said they were sad to see me go,” he said. “You don’t think about it when doing your job, but apparently you become part of people’s lives. And when they tell you how much of a part, it’s humbling. A Bosnian War refugee, for instance, thanked me for ‘teaching’ her Dutch. She learned the language, she said, by watching our broadcasts.”

Until his retirement, Nieman, 50, was widely recognized as Holland’s most watched and most influential television journalist. His 7:30 p.m. broadcasts on RTL were seen by 1.5 million viewers every day in a country of 17 million inhabitants. For comparison, *NBC Nightly News* is watched by about 8.5 million people, but the United States has a population of 318 million.

As those statistics show, news, especially international news, is very popular in the Netherlands and Nieman, who is fluent in Dutch and English and also speaks German, Italian and French, regularly interviewed world leaders when they came to Holland. Over the years, he has talked with Madeleine Albright, the Dalai Lama, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Bill Clinton and Condoleezza Rice, among many others.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

Nieman’s path to being a “news presenter” began in 1983 when he came to Roosevelt as an American Cultural Exchange student. Unlike many of his colleagues who wanted to study at a large state university, his objective was to go to a university in a large city where he could learn journalism from practicing professionals.

“I had a wonderful experience at Roosevelt,” he said. “The professors were either former or current practicing journalists with a lot of experience. They gave us very practical assignments. I remember



Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was interviewed a number of times by Rick Nieman. On this occasion in 2003, (left) she was promoting her first book *Madame Secretary*. Clifford Sobel (right), the U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, met with Nieman in 2005 in Margraten, where more than 8,000 U.S. servicemen who were killed in WWII are buried.

“I am incredibly grateful for my time at Roosevelt.”

one semester my beat was the Cook County Court system and I had to write a background story and a feature story about it every week. What I learned there, I have used daily ever since. I am really incredibly grateful for my time at Roosevelt.”

One person Nieman particularly respected is Charles-Gene McDaniel, who headed Roosevelt’s journalism program from 1979 until 1995. A former Associated Press writer, McDaniel was a first-rate writer and teacher who, after he retired, visited Nieman in Amsterdam. “Professor McDaniel instilled in us a tremendous feeling of fairness,” he said. “He was very much into the ABCs of journalism – accuracy, brevity and clarity. We had to get the facts straight. He was not very kind if you did sloppy work.”

During his four years at Roosevelt, Nieman lived in the Herman Crown Center residence hall and was active in school activities. He was editor of Roosevelt’s student newspaper, *The Torch* and was a member of Roosevelt’s soccer team that was ranked 16th nationally in the NAIA and beat the University of Notre Dame. “We had a Serbian coach and nobody on the team was actually born in the U.S.,” he recalled. “We had Iraqis, Iranians, Haitians, Yugoslavians and just one Dutchman, me. Truth be told, I was substitute and didn’t play much, but I loved being on that team.”

After graduating from Roosevelt, Nieman received a scholarship to earn a master’s degree from the University of Southern California (USC) where he studied international relations and journalism. He then joined a small business news organization that was acquired by CNN shortly after he was hired. All of a sudden at the age of 25, he was an on-air reporter for CNN in London specializing in financial news.

“It’s a bad anecdote about our society and being a television reporter,” Nieman said, “but an instructor at USC once told me: ‘You’re young, you’re blond, you speak reasonably well, you’re made for television. You should be a TV reporter.’ I was insulted at the time, but she was probably right.”

In 1991 he decided to move back to Holland and accepted a position as a reporter with RTL News. The station is part of RTL Group, Europe’s leading entertainment network with interests in 55 television channels around the world. After serving as a general assignment reporter, the Roosevelt alumnus was selected as RTL’s anchor in 1996 and he held that position until May when he decided to leave in order “to write more, travel and work on other journalistic projects.”

POLITICS, AMERICAN STYLE

To glean ideas for his newscasts, Nieman regularly watched American television. “Of all the countries in Europe and the United Kingdom, we’re the most Anglo-American focused,” he said. “Germany is our biggest trading partner, but the Dutch don’t speak German all that well. They speak English and they’re very focused on the U.S. I read the *New York Times* every day and already did stories about the 2016 U.S. Presidential election even though the Iowa caucuses are still many months away.”

However, it was elections in the Netherlands that helped make Nieman so well known. Like George Stephanopoulos or Bob Schieffer in the United States, he moderated debates with all the major candidates and then anchored the election results and provided analysis on what the results

meant for the parties and country. Every major political leader in the Netherlands has been grilled by Nieman on such topics as the future of the Dutch economy and the effects of budget cuts on Dutch citizens.

When they come to Amsterdam, international leaders frequently visit RTL news and Nieman was often the reporter who interviewed them. His most memorable interview, however, occurred in a hotel room in Luxemburg where he was attending the European Union–United States Ministerial Summit in 2005.

He was the first person to talk with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice following a major announcement by North Korea. He began the interview by saying: “Ms. Secretary, North Korea just announced for the first time publicly this morning that it has nuclear weapons. What is your reaction to this?” Rice replied that the North Koreans were “only deepening their isolation in the international community” and “there needs to be no nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula in order to maintain stability in the region.”

When Nieman opened the hotel door after the interview, there were 30 journalists from around the world waiting to ask him what she said. “Our timing was very fortunate,” he recalled. “Our interview was picked up by CNN and other stations and there was a front page article in the *New York Times* the next morning.”

Nieman also has interviewed President Bill Clinton a number of times as well as former Secretary of State Colin Powell, whom he quizzed about the use of Dutch troops in Iraq as part of the military coalition during the Iraq War.

And during a TV interview in 2013 to discuss their upcoming royal inauguration, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and his wife Princess Máxima surprised the nation by telling Nieman that citizens can address them “any way they see fit.” “People in the street call me Máxima. At the end of the day, it’s not that important to be called princess or queen. The important thing is the title we represent,” Máxima said.

Nieman describes his interview style as being tough, but fair. “If people don’t want to answer a question, I gently try to say you didn’t answer the question and give it another shot. But after I’ve asked it three times, I say, ‘I understand you don’t want to answer, let’s move on to the next one.’”

In addition to anchoring and interviewing, Nieman is an accomplished author, whose book *Always Viareggio* was published in Spring 2015 to favorable reviews. It tells the story of four high school and college friends who make an annual motorcycle trip to Viareggio, Italy. One critic wrote that *Always Viareggio* “might move you to think about your own life and friendships.”

Nieman is married to Sacha de Boer, a former news anchor on a competing network. De Boer is now a professional photographer who shoots for *National Geographic* among other publications.

As to the future, Nieman said he received a number of offers the moment he announced his departure. One of those was hosting a Sunday-morning news show on another network, which he began doing this fall. Odds are his legion of news viewers are tuning in. 📺



ALWAYS VIAREGGIO

Rick Nieman's first novel, *Altijd Viareggio*, came out in May and tells the story of a group of friends who every year make a trip to the Italian seaside village of Viareggio by motorcycle. Nieman, a motorcycle enthusiast himself, said the book describes how friendships change as people grow older.



BUZZWORTHY JOURNALISM GRADS MAKE HEADLINES BY LAURA JANOTA

FROM WRITING FOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS to anchoring television news programs, alumni from Roosevelt University's Journalism Program are realizing dreams as successful members of the media.

"Many of our journalism graduates are doing great things," said Marian Azzaro, chair of the Department of Communication at Roosevelt. "One of the keys to our program is that it positions students to be prepared for the rapidly changing field of journalism by providing instruction in different media, from newspapers to video to Internet reporting."

Started four decades ago, the Roosevelt journalism experience includes opportunities for learning at *The Torch* student newspaper, The Blaze student radio station and most recently The Fire, which is doing video news segments and is the newest student journalism format. "We're teaching students to write and report for all kinds of journalistic media; these are skills that are useful and needed for success," Azzaro said.

Jennifer (Berry) Hawes, a 1993 journalism graduate, brought positive attention to Roosevelt's program as a member of a reporting team for *The Post and Courier*, a daily newspaper in Charleston, S.C., that won the Pulitzer Prize in April for Public Service for a five-part series on domestic violence.

She credits Roosevelt Associate Professor of Journalism Linda Jones with opening her eyes to the storytelling craft of journalism. "She instilled the importance of storytelling in me," Hawes said of Jones, "and that's what I'm really known for today."

Roosevelt journalism alumnus Aaron Lee recently landed a job with ESPN in Chicago, getting a foot in the door toward one day achieving his ultimate goal of becoming an ESPN anchorman.

Lee, who also learned the importance of storytelling as a journalism undergraduate at Roosevelt, credits Roosevelt Journalism Professor John Fountain with inspiring him to tell his story of battling Crohn's Disease and coming to terms with his mother's untimely death.

"I remember having a professor who once told me 'The sky's the limit on where you can go' and I feel that way about Aaron," Fountain said recently.

Keeping that advice in mind, Lee covered the NFL Draft in Chicago as a freelance sports reporter and shortly after landed a job with ESPN Chicago. "This is going to be a stepping stone for me," said Lee, who began work this fall on a master's degree. "I'm getting to meet a lot of people at the network and they know I have aspirations to go a lot further."

Giacomo Luca, who was working as an anchorman for a small TV station in Lima, Ohio, before graduating from Roosevelt in May 2014, already has moved up as an on-air reporter for a larger TV station that broadcasts out of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

As a reporter for a CBS affiliate station out of Cape Girardeau, which has the 81st largest TV market in the country, Luca goes live nightly, covering news from approximately 50 rural counties in four Midwest states.

"I broke into a top 100 market the month after I graduated from college and I have my Roosevelt journalism professors to thank for preparing me well for this experience," said Luca. "I've been able to do my dream job every day and I couldn't be happier."

"I have my Roosevelt journalism professors to thank for preparing me well for this experience," says Giacomo Luca (above), an award-winning journalist who is currently reporting for CBS/Fox affiliate KFVS-TV in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

BY TOM KAROW

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Ali Malekzadeh has the leadership skills, higher education experience, business expertise and personality Roosevelt's trustees sought in a new president.

"What would you be doing if you weren't in higher education?"

The question seemed to surprise him, and Ali Malekzadeh, Roosevelt University's new president, paused and looked around his office before answering. "I never thought of that before," he replied. "Education is my business. I understand it and have loved every minute of it."

From the time he was a second grader, Malekzadeh, a native of Iran, wanted to be an educator, and true to his dreams, his entire 33-year career to date has been in education as a university professor and administrator. He's even married to a professor, Dr. Afsaneh Nahavandi, chair of the Department of Leadership Studies at the University of San Diego.

Malekzadeh, who asks everyone to call him "Ali," joined Roosevelt on July 1 as the University's sixth president, succeeding Chuck Middleton who retired after 12 years as president. "The sky is the limit at Roosevelt," said the former dean of business at Kansas State University, just a short time into his first presidency. "This is a great University with a noble history and outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni. Our legacy will be to build on those attributes and create an even greater University."

Colleagues who have worked with him in the past have no doubt that his leadership skills, higher education experience and personality will enable him to be a successful president.

"Very few times in your life do you meet someone with a sense of optimism, fairness, and a forward looking and compelling vision, along with a strategy for achieving that vision. I was fortunate to have met that person – Ali Malekzadeh," said Anand S. Desai, a former associate dean at Kansas State and now dean of the School of Business at Wichita State University.

"When I'm in a difficult meeting or conversation, I ask myself 'what would Ali do?'" said Raghu Tadepalli, dean of the School of Business at Elon University in Elon, N.C. "And since it's been six years since we worked together at Xavier University in Cincinnati, that's the biggest compliment I can pay someone." >>





M

alekzadeh, 60, first started thinking about becoming a university president six months before the Roosevelt position opened. “I liked being a dean and being a university president was not a lifetime ambition of mine,” Malekzadeh said. Kansas State President Kirk Schulz, a friend and mentor, helped change his mind. He encouraged Malekzadeh to consider becoming a president as his next career move.

So when Witt/Kieffer, Roosevelt’s search firm, contacted him about the presidency, he agreed to an initial interview. “The more I looked into Roosevelt, the more I liked it,” he said. “I was really impressed with the University’s social justice mission and thought the job might be a good fit for me.” It turned out that the feeling was mutual. Malekzadeh impressed every constituency he met during the interview process. In March, the Presidential Search Committee, chaired by trustee and now Board Chair Patricia Harris, recommended his appointment to the Board of Trustees and he was unanimously elected president on March 26.

“During his conversations with the committee,” Harris said, “it became clear that Ali’s collegial disposition, strategic insights and natural affinity for the Roosevelt community made him the resounding choice to serve as Roosevelt’s next president.”

“I have worked in administration at four universities, both public and private, and believe the main responsibility of a leader is to provide an environment where everyone can succeed,” Malekzadeh said. “Organizations are about people and everyone comes to work to be successful. If there’s a problem, we will work to try and solve it.”

Ann Marie Tracey, professor of business law and ethics at Xavier University where Malekzadeh was business dean from 2003 to 2011, said he is “an extraordinary leader.” “I remember going to a community event with him after he’d only been in town for a few weeks and thought I would be introducing him to people. But he already knew everybody,” she said.

Tadepalli said Malekzadeh is able to get along with everyone, from CEOs to custodians. “He is always upbeat, looks on the positive side, is unfailingly courteous and is strategic. Working with him was one of the most professionally satisfying periods of my life.”

THE MAKINGS OF A PRESIDENT

While many people comment on his energy and enthusiasm, Malekzadeh does much of his thinking and planning while jogging every morning along Chicago’s lakefront, a continuation of his life long interest in fitness and sports. A snow skier, he lifts weights to stay in shape and is a fourth-level black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He was captain of his high school basketball team and a varsity soccer goalie in college.

Fundraising has long been one of Malekzadeh’s strengths. He secured funds for a new business college location at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, helped raise \$30 million for a new business school building at Xavier and raised over \$40 million for a

new \$55 million College of Business facility at Kansas State.

“Ali understands the dynamics of fundraising,” said University of Montana Foundation President and CEO Shane Giese, who worked with Malekzadeh at Kansas State, raising funds for programs, faculty, students and facilities. “He personally drove the vision of building a new business building at K-State, from securing internal support, to developing the concept, to scoping the project with architects and contractors, to fundraising for the effort.”

Malekzadeh’s initial experiences in university administration and faculty leadership were at Arizona State University West in Phoenix where from 1987 to 1998 he helped develop the brand new campus. He helped hire the business faculty and created the Office of Graduate Studies. Since he was first appointed a dean and throughout his career, Malekzadeh has been a strong advocate for faculty and staff development, providing professors and university staff with opportunities to advance their careers.



“Ali changed my life,” said Desai of Wichita State. “In the four years I was at Kansas State with him, he gave me opportunities to grow and develop my skills as an academic leader. He showed me that if you dream it and work hard, you can make it happen.”

Malekzadeh attributes his can-do spirit to his mother and his skills in negotiation to his father, a successful attorney. At one time, Malekzadeh said his dad was requested to be counsel for both parties in a legal dispute between a university in Tehran and the city of Tehran. During a break in the judicial proceedings, he brought both sides together and resolved the issue. Years later, Malekzadeh had a similar experience. While at St. Cloud State, both the labor union and the administration named him as their investigative officer.

“ The main responsibility of a leader is to provide an environment where everyone can succeed.”

PRESIDENT ALI MALEKZADEH

contributions to America were recognized on July 4 when the Carnegie Corporation of New York honored him and 37 other “great immigrants” from more than 30 countries with a full-page ad in the *New York Times*.

Although Malekzadeh is still forming his agenda for Roosevelt, one area he will emphasize is alumni participation. He will be reaching out to graduates and encouraging them to become more involved in the life of Roosevelt students by being mentors, providing internships and supporting scholarships. “We want alumni to be so proud of their alma mater that they call us and say ‘how can we help you?’”

The mentoring program will be based on successful programs he implemented at Kansas State and Xavier. At Kansas State more than 560 undergraduate students had



A WARM WELCOME During his first weeks at Roosevelt, President Ali Malekzadeh has been busy participating in University life: trying on Roosevelt gear, meeting parents of students and joining in activities with students.

Malekzadeh's life in the United States began in 1969 when he was invited to spend the summer in Denver with an American family. “When we landed at Stapleton Airport in Denver, I looked up and it was just like Tehran,” he said. “Fourteen thousand feet high mountains, four seasons and very similar weather. I said, ‘Wow, this is it. This is where I want to go to college. I can even continue skiing here.’ So, I spent the summer there and applied to only one university, the University of Denver.”

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Denver, Malekzadeh and his wife (Malekzadeh and Nahavandi met in grade school and married in Tehran in 1977) went to the University of Utah to earn doctoral degrees in business.


Then in January of 1979 after the Islamic Revolution, Malekzadeh and Nahavandi were unable to return to Iran.

Malekzadeh describes the ordeal this way: “It's like you were born and raised in Illinois and then go to school in Massachusetts. All of a sudden, somebody says, ‘By the way, Illinois won't let you in anymore.’ They take your passport, punch a hole in your face and give the worthless passport back.”

After the revolution, Malekzadeh and Nahavandi immediately decided to make the United States their home. They completed their doctorates and were granted asylum, allowing them to teach at Northeastern University in Boston. Shortly later, they became U.S. citizens and their two daughters were born and raised in America. Malekzadeh's

executive mentors, while at Xavier more than 500 people volunteered to advise students with their careers. This helped improve the college's job placement rate to 98 percent.

“Ali is a strong believer in getting students hands-on experience with internships,” Giese said. “He enjoys the process of watching students mature in their work and their outlook on what they want to do with their lives.”

For someone whose business has always been education, it won't take Roosevelt's new president long to capitalize on the University's opportunities and build on its legacy. “We're here to educate people and provide an open environment where absolutely everybody can thrive and succeed and achieve the American Dream. I think that's what Roosevelt has been and always will be about,” he said. 



“We’ll figure it out **together.**”

Desire Bernard first did a project on Chicago homelessness as a Mit-tie, Moselynn and Dempsey Travis scholar. As an honors student, she was paired with a nonprofit professional who taught her more about the homelessness issue and how it can be best addressed. Now the Roosevelt senior is applying all she’s learned to help a homeless man named Larry Roby reclaim his dignity.

BY LAURA JANOTA

Ignoring the man who sleeps outside her office window atop a heating grate in Chicago’s Midway Plaisance Park has never been an option for Roosevelt University senior Desire Bernard.

The 35-year-old psychology major, whose motto in life is “We can figure it out,” comes from a tradition of giving. “My mother was always feeding somebody,” said the Belize native who came to the United States at age 11 and was awarded U.S. citizenship last year. “In that regard, I’m following in her footsteps.”

The honors student will be the first in her family to receive a college diploma when she graduates from Roosevelt in the spring of 2016. Her odyssey of learning about and understanding the plight of Chicago’s homeless began as a new Roosevelt student in fall 2013.

“Desire’s philosophy in life is to help others and do justice. She’s the real deal in terms of living those values,” said Laura Evans, a Roosevelt professor of organizational leadership and mentor to Bernard, who enrolled at the University because of its mission.

An office manager at the Urban Education Institute in Chicago’s Hyde Park, Bernard first saw movement under a blanket in Midway Plaisance Park as she looked out her window in early October 2013. She realized a man lived there when she saw him a few days later sitting on a plastic cooler next to the blanket.

After two weeks of watching and with the weather turning colder, Bernard decided to carry down a cup of coffee. The whirl of a boiler fan shooting hot air up through the heating grate could be heard as Bernard offered the coffee and the man nodded in thanks.

“When she discovered this man living on a heating grate, it was only natural for her to befriend him,” said Evans, who taught a critical reasoning and skills course that Bernard took as a freshman. “She’s been doing one-on-one social justice with him ever since, though it’s probably been a tougher road than she expected.”

What I've learned is that America has the resources in place to help, but it lacks the community.” — **DESIRE BERNARD**

Bernard certainly has experienced plenty of ups and downs during the past two years as she has come to know and understand Larry Roby, the 60-year-old homeless man whose life has been full of frustration.

“When people find out you don’t have anything, they have a tendency to turn their noses up,” Roby said recently. “They don’t know the situation, even though they think they do.”

The experience also has been a career builder for Bernard, who has done considerable legwork contacting caseworkers, free medical clinics and homeless housing advocates, among others, to assist her in helping Roby.

“This is not someone who shrinks from challenges,” said Megan Bernard (not related to Desire Bernard), associate provost for inclusion/enrichment and a director of Roosevelt’s new Community Mentoring Program, which paired the honors student with a leader of a Chicago not-for-profit homeless-care provider. “The knowledge she’s getting in the classroom and the know-how she’s gaining in the field are preparing her to

be a leader capable of making contributions to positive change in communities.”

There wasn’t much conversation at first, as Desire didn’t want to be too pushy, but she thought a lot about the man on the heating grate, visiting him twice a week with food, clothing, drug-store sundries and other essentials.

By January 2014, Bernard had learned Roby’s story, interviewing him for her 2013-14 Mittie, Moselynn and Dempsey Travis scholarship project at Roosevelt – a video she titled “The Invisible Ones,” which was well received at its screening.

“What was nice about the project is the way she approached the topic of homelessness,” said Joan Berg, a Travis family foundation attorney who attended Bernard’s February 2014 presentation. “The message was about preserving the dignity of those you’re trying to help get back on their feet,” said Berg, “and that is in line with the mission of the foundation,” which after the screening, awarded Bernard a second Travis scholarship for 2014-15.

“At that point, I didn’t want to let the project go,” said Bernard, who remembers thanking Roby in April 2014 for helping make the video and her presentation powerful. “I asked if he wanted me to help him get off the street. He said ‘yes,’ we shook on it and I told him ‘We can figure it out together.’”

A Chicago native, Roby is a high school dropout, former U.S. marine and steel worker whose job at U.S. Steel South Works in Chicago was to open the door of a blast furnace.

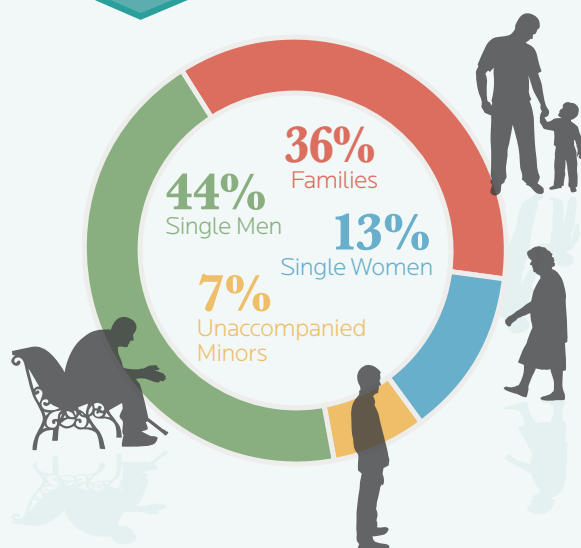
After the plant closed for good in 1996, Roby lost his townhome to foreclosure and his car to repossession. Depressed and discouraged, he became estranged from his family, living on the street for 20 years, including the last six without any form of identification.

“I was literally walking in the dark,” said Bernard, who initially sought school and hospital records to try and establish Roby’s identity so he could get a Social Security card and be put on a waiting list for housing.

Chicago Public Schools officials informed Bernard that Roby’s records were in a

BY THE
NUMBERS

Who are the nation’s homeless?



15% of the homeless population is considered chronically homeless.

9% of homeless people are veterans.

on a given night...

65%
are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs

35%
are living without shelter, such as under bridges, in cars or abandoned buildings



44% have been legally employed in the last 30 days

warehouse, and that it could take months to find them. Staff at Cook County's Provident Hospital refused to release Roby's records unless he had a police report proving he'd been transported to the emergency room.

Complaining of back pain and stomach problems, Roby was seen in summer 2014 at the hospital's emergency room where he received paperwork that became the basis for establishing his identity. With this report, Franciscan Outreach in Chicago went ahead that fall, at Bernard's urging, to issue a letter officially affirming Roby's homeless status.

The letter helped Roby get a Social Security card, birth certificate, Illinois identification card and a place on a waiting list for permanent housing. After the eight-month paper chase was over, Bernard gave Roby a wallet for his state ID. She also held onto his original documents, which she continues to store for safekeeping.

"I never realized the obstacles that our homeless have in getting back on their feet," said Bernard, who grew up in Belize City where she first saw street people and learned that reaching out is part of belonging to a community. "If anyone was hungry, there was always someone there with a pot of food," she said. "What I've learned is that America has the resources in place to help, but it lacks the community."

Bernard and her mother, Esther Hudson, have been a safety net for Roby. They bring him supplies, drive him places and show concern when he stays in the cold or misses appointments that could open doors to getting off the street.

"Desire is happiest when she is helping others. You can see it in her face," said Hudson, who pitches in whenever Bernard asks. "She's going into a life of service, and even if Mr. Roby doesn't get out of homelessness, I believe my daughter will be rewarded for trying."

Roby admits being surprised that Bernard hasn't given up on him yet. "I've come to believe she really cares about me," he said recently.

Among nearly 140,000 people in Chicagoland without a home, Roby is in line with approximately 26,000 others seeking permanent, subsidized housing.



ABOVE AND BEYOND When psychology major Desire Bernard first saw a homeless man outside her office window, her inclination was to help in any way possible, including assisting him in obtaining his long-lost identity.



“Desire has come to understand homelessness on the micro and macro levels.”

Sol Flores, Executive Director of La Casa Norte and one of Bernard's mentors

His case isn't likely to be a priority, as Roby is adamant against going into a temporary shelter, a step that can increase one's chances for getting a private apartment. Simply put, Roby wants the apartment, but not at the expense of his privacy and freedom.

“Most people helping the homeless agree that the longer one stays outside, the harder it becomes to make a change,” said Douglas Fraser, executive director of the Chicago Help Initiative, a homeless-care nonprofit that Bernard has contacted for guidance in helping Roby.

“When you deal with people who have been outside for a very long time, the reality is that it can be difficult to figure out how to help them,” said Fraser, who has warned Bernard not to expect miracles. “I've told her that ‘None of us always make good decisions, and that includes the homeless. It's a matter of finding that right moment when a person is really ready to make a decision to change.’”

Mentored last academic year by Sol Flores, executive director of La Casa Norte, whose mission is to serve youth and families confronting homelessness, the Roosevelt student has learned how to talk Roby through his frustration and how to help him troubleshoot his problems. She's also attended La Casa Norte events, community meetings and press conferences, even meeting Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel while learning about the city's plan for addressing homelessness.

“Desire has come to understand homelessness on the micro and macro levels,” said Flores,

who hired her over the summer to assess the needs of approximately 100 households receiving assistance from the nonprofit.

“I'm excited to see what she will do next,” added Flores, who hopes to continue the mentor relationship that officially ended last spring with a symposium presentation by six Roosevelt mentees, including Bernard. “I see Desire as someone who could lead initiatives and teams from the non profit sector in their work on important social issues like homelessness.”

Going forward, Bernard continues to build on service experiences. Every three months, she sends boxes of shoes, children's clothing, medical supplies and other necessities to the needy in her old neighborhood in Belize City. Earlier this year, she created a GoFundMe page on the Internet, raising \$650 to help pay for the funeral of a 29-year-old family friend who left behind five young children.

Through La Casa Norte, she learned of volunteer opportunities at Chicago's Erie Neighborhood House, where she tutors an

adult learning to read and is on a list to be a counselor assisting immigrants seeking citizenship.

Well versed about homelessness and its challenges thanks to opportunities she had as a Roosevelt student, Bernard is making a difference one person at a time, beginning with Roby.

“If you need me, I'll be there. I just need you to take the reins,” she said recently as the two sat on a bench in the park discussing next steps for the homeless man in making a transition from the heating grate.

Mentioning a list of benefits he'd like to apply for – food stamps, Medicaid, Social Security disability – Roby hid tears when Bernard promised to stick with him.

“That kind of kindness and concern – it hits me in the heart,” said Roby, adding, “If I ever get back on my feet, I'll always be there to show my appreciation.”

At that, Bernard smiled and said something she's repeated before. “We can figure it out Mr. Roby. We'll figure it out together.” 📺



Watch “*The Invisible Ones*” by Desire Bernard:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGkjq6ytl3Q>



GOING THE DISTANCE

AMBITION. ENTREPRENEURSHIP. TENACITY. AS A TWO-TIME ROOSEVELT GRADUATE AND FOUNDING PARTNER OF A FAST-GROWING REAL ESTATE FIRM, LEO SOLARTE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE HIS ULTIMATE GOAL: LEAVING A LEGACY.

BY ERICA MASINI

SOLARTE CLOSE-UP

BY THE TIME Leo Solarte (BB,'09; MSRE,'11) finished his master's in real estate in 2011, he had racked up 40,000 miles driving to properties on the potholed streets of Chicago's South Side. Taking nine classes in one semester and managing the retail division of First Western Properties, a real estate firm, left time for little else. The passenger seat of his 2004 Cadillac CTS held his essentials: scattered listing sheets, textbooks, brochures and a computer. But it was worth it for Solarte. He had a legacy to leave.

"I bleed Chicago," he said. "I love this city and want to leave my stamp on it. It's my own little way of going down in the history books on a local scale."

As co-founder and managing partner of boutique real estate firm Greenstone Partners, Solarte is driven to give back to his city, a trait he inherited from a long lineage of Chicago pioneers. His fifth great-grandfather signed the Declaration of Independence, and his family settled in Chicago in the 1860s and most are still in the area. Solarte says earning a reputation as an honest and ambitious businessman is his way of leaving a legacy his children can be proud of, and he's off to a strong start. He was made an honoree of the National Association of Realtors' 30 Under 30 Class of 2012, a CoStar Retail Power Broker for 2011, 2012 and 2013, and has been named Top Retail Leasing & Sales Agent annually since 2010 by the Chicago Association of Realtors' Commercial Forum.

The 30-year old didn't always have his sights set on real estate. After growing up in Portage Park on Chicago's northwest side, he attended Whitney Young High School and worked at a used car dealership while taking night classes part-time at community college. He developed an interest in finance after one of his coworkers encouraged him to get a broker's license, and enrolled at Roosevelt in 2007 to pursue finance.

When the stock market crashed in 2008, the mortgage business suffered dramatically.

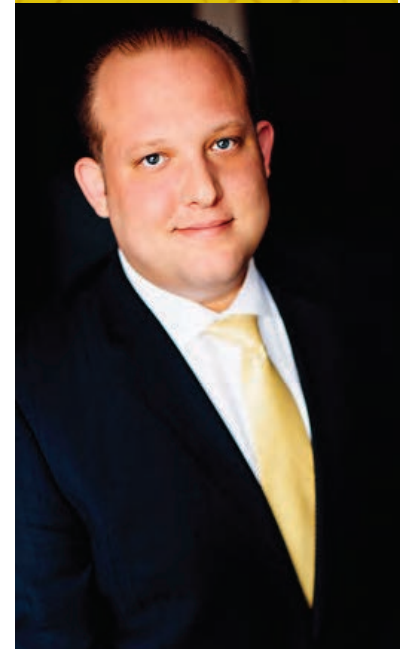
Solarte took the opportunity to stop working and study at Roosevelt full-time, finishing two years' worth of classes in one year. Getting approvals to take nine classes in one semester impressed Roosevelt administrators, and the business dean encouraged Solarte to stay and earn a master's in real estate. Solarte had been offered a real estate job the month he graduated, so he took it as a sign and dove headfirst into his master's while working full-time.

"Without the networking opportunities provided to students in the program, it would have been very hard to have the sphere of influence I had as I started my career. The connections make a big difference," he said.

Solarte's professors picked up his ambition. "Leo has a characteristic we love in real estate—entrepreneurship," said Jon B. DeVries, director of the Marshall Bennett Institute of Real Estate (MBIRE). "To be successful in real estate entrepreneurship, you have to move up the value chain from managing to leasing to owning to developing. This takes tenacity, a solid network and risk-taking. Leo has all of these qualities, and he's been able to move up the chain with almost no interruption." Solarte was named one of the program's earliest scholarship recipients of the Joseph and Joyce Freed: Tomorrow's Leaders in Real Estate Initiative in 2009 and 2010.

After graduating with his master's in 2011, Solarte continued working at First Western Properties and watched as it grew from relatively few to 200 listings over the course of five years. He also knew he was paying the company a percentage of the commissions.

Three of his colleagues from other companies aired similar frustrations at quarterly dinners at Corcoran's bar in Old Town. The four met initially to talk shop and have a few beers, but as time went on the conversations turned serious, all agreeing they wanted to start their own firm. "Like every other business out there, ours started over drinks," Solarte laughed.



My most treasured possession: Cuff links my grandfather gave to me when I turned 21.

How I met my wife: She worked at the finance corporation that opened the car dealership I worked at. My now sister-in-law handed me a blue post-it note with my wife's phone number on it.

My favorite vacation location: Costa Rica

If I was not in real estate, I'd be a lawyer.

My favorite leisure-time activity is backyard BBQs with friends and family.



“I want to put my stamp on this city – something my kids can be proud of.”

– Leo Solarte

Now in its second year, Greenstone Partners—formed by Solarte, Peter Weitz, Jason St. John and David Tomlinson—manages over two million square feet of commercial properties throughout the Midwest and represents all of 7-Eleven’s new store development in Illinois. Solarte attributes the firm’s growth to the partners’ shared vision: establishing strong relationships with clients and providing them with sound advice even when there’s no commission on the table. “We’re very advisory in our roles; we’re not pressure salesmen at all. We’re aggressive and we go to bat for our clients, but we chose ‘Greenstone Partners’ instead of ‘Greenstone Realty’ to emphasize that we partner with our clients and are here for the long term,” Solarte said.

Managing relationships has proven another of Solarte’s skills. Tomlinson, whose first

impression of Solarte was as a hard-nosed, cigarette-smoking South Side salesman, remembers a time last year when the four partners disagreed on a business strategy. Tomlinson grew frustrated and exhausted. But he got a call from Solarte the next day that changed his outlook from then on.

“Leo went out of his way to extend an arm and tell me how appreciative he was of my role at the company. It really changed the whole tide of the conversations we were having,” Tomlinson said. “He’s selfless, he’s tireless, he’s all about the team. I’ll never forget it.”

In 2015 Solarte decided to give back to another team: his alma mater. A new member of the MBIRE Advisory Board, Solarte said he hopes to mentor budding real estate professionals. His advice? “Reputation. That’s it.

Your reputation is your business. You have to work hard and know what you’re talking about. There are a lot of smart people in this business and you can’t fake your way through it.”

Outside of Greenstone Partners and the advisory board, Solarte keeps busy with his wife Lupe and two sons (Vincent, 2, and Nicholas, 1) and with amateur boxing. In May, Solarte fought for the first time in the Chicago Real Estate Rumble, which raised money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago. Before the fight, he said he felt good because his trainer was a former WBC lightweight champion who fought greats like Manny Pacquiao. “I think that’s a good trainer to have,” he laughed. Though he didn’t win, he’s already training for next year. “I’m not giving up,” he said. 🥊

PROUD PICK

Roosevelt's historic Auditorium Theatre beamed during the 2015 NFL Draft.

BY LAURA JANOTA

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

Opening night of the 2015 NFL Draft drew 4,000 fans inside the Auditorium Theatre and nearly 200,000 more to Chicago's Grant Park and vicinity, and that was only the tip of the iceberg for the major TV event watched by millions.





"CAN YOU BELIEVE ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE SEEING THIS BUILDING? IF ONLY MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER KNEW."

EDWARD WEIL, GREAT-GRANDSON OF ARCHITECT DANKMAR ADLER

AS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE 2015 NFL DRAFT

bathed Roosevelt University's Auditorium Theatre in swaths of pink, purple and blue and the 4,000 fans in attendance roared approvingly, Edward Weil beamed with pride and emotion.

He knew millions of people all over the country were getting a look – many for the first time – inside the architectural gem that his great-grandfather, Dankmar Adler, had designed 125 years prior.

"My heart was pounding," recalled Judie Green, the theatre's chief development officer who accompanied the 87-year-old Weil, an Auditorium Theatre board member and volunteer usher, to see the Draft's dramatic opening. "This is a man who has been around for a very long time. He is prouder of the theatre than almost anyone I know. To be there with him at that moment is something I will always treasure."

Soon after NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell approached the podium, announcing the first pick of the April 30-May 2 seven-round, 256-player draft, Weil turned to Green and said, "Can you believe all these people are seeing this building?" He paused for a moment, thinking of the enormity. Then he added: "If only my great-grandfather knew."

"It choked me up" recalled Green, who has worked at the theatre for nearly 20 years. "It made me realize we were in the limelight like never before."

The Auditorium Theatre and Roosevelt University began preparing for the Draft in earnest on Oct. 2,

2014, when the NFL announced that Chicago would be the first city outside of New York to host the Draft in half a century.

"I would like to thank Roosevelt University for collaborating with us and allowing the NFL to use its historic space during this unprecedented event," said Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's senior vice president who oversees NFL events. "During the Draft's three-day span, more than 200,000 fans attended the Draft inside the Auditorium Theatre and outside at Selection Square and Draft Town. We are appreciative of Roosevelt University and the City of Chicago for this amazing and memorable experience," added O'Reilly. "Chicago was on the clock and surpassed our expectations."

C.J. Dillon, chief operating officer for the Auditorium Theatre, credited Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel for leading the charge in bringing the NFL Draft to Chicago.

"It took determination, vision and imagination to make an event of this magnitude possible," he said. "We had people from all over the University involved in making sure things ran smoothly," added Dillon, who co-led a Roosevelt team that worked with the NFL, Chicago Sports Commission and the Choose Chicago tourism bureau to make the mayor's dream a successful reality.

A TOUCHDOWN FOR ROOSEVELT

The event generated spending, jobs and a can-do spirit of hospitality exhibited nightly by volunteers, many who came from the Roosevelt University community.



32 TEAMS 900,000 SQUARE FEET 36,576 HOTEL ROOMS 846 NEW JOBS

"Our goal was to be welcoming and accommodating, and we did it as a community in a national spotlight that showcased our friendliness, dedication and capability," he said.

By all accounts, the Draft, which drew fans from around the country to Chicago's lakefront, was a huge success in both the way it was presented and in the publicity it attracted.

Dozens of writers, broadcasters, photographers, camera crews, bloggers and tweeters reported on the Draft from the Theatre and the press interview room, located in Roosevelt's second floor Congress Lounge. Approximately 50 million people tuned in during four days of Draft coverage, including 8.8 million viewers who watched at least three minutes of opening night on ESPN or the NFL Network. In addition, approximately 4.7 million people tweeted about the event, making it among the top-tweeted sports events of all time.

"We put on a show and made people happy, which is what my job is about – just not normally on that kind of scale," added Dillon.

One of the many details was a platform erected on the back section of the theatre's stage that was used as a Green Room where top players and their families waited until the players were selected. After being drafted, the future NFLers donned their new team's hat and crossed the famous Auditorium stage to shake hands with Goodell.

"From the onset, we were clear about the historic importance of the theatre," said Dillon, a 15-year theatre management veteran and Roosevelt alumnus. "The NFL was absolutely mindful of our historic treasure. In many ways, they left the theatre better than they found it."

Before the show could be transmitted to the viewing public from ESPN and NFL Network broadcast booths erected inside the theatre, there was need for a powerful bandwidth capable of uploading data to multiple mobile devices at once.

Neeraj Kumar, the University's chief information officer, began working on the technology piece in January and recalls as many as 50 walk-throughs with the NFL, ESPN and various cell phone providers. The end result was a three-fold increase in bandwidth at

the University and Theatre which remains in place after the event. The technology improvements were made courtesy of the NFL and Choose Chicago. The Auditorium, which opened in 1889 as the first multi-use building with electricity, continues its cutting-edge tradition as a venue that can host complex, major media events.

The "brick-and-mortar" improvements, however, pale in comparison to Roosevelt's biggest asset – its community of people who were everywhere putting the University's best foot forward during the NFL Draft.

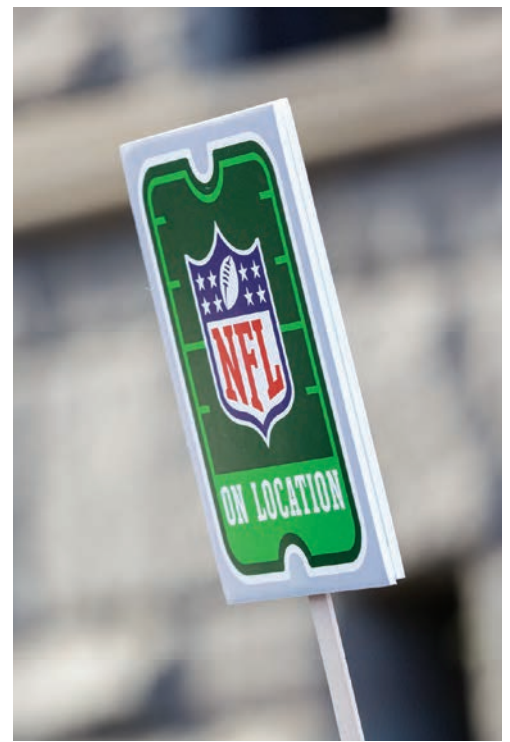
"Our community was volunteering in so many different ways," said Jodi Daily, Roosevelt's director of conference services who led the University's 40-person volunteer contingent that provided customer service to NFL fans and guests. "You could feel the excitement that volunteers had about being involved. It's not something you always see at special events."

Sophomore Maya Maynard, a Roosevelt business major, exuded that spirit during opening night as she directed guests along the route they should take through the Auditorium Building's winding second floor. "I'm so glad that Roosevelt got to host this and that students got to be part of it. I will put the experience on my resume. It shows I've done something unique that others can't say they did."

Directing people at the second-floor connection between the Auditorium and Wabash buildings was College of Arts and Sciences Dean Bonnie Gunzenhauser, who said she couldn't miss the opportunity, even though American football and her love for English literature rarely intersect. "I like football and I love spectacle. I wanted a front-row seat to some of the drama," she said.

Roosevelt volunteers weren't limited to the Auditorium Building. In fact, many were selected by Choose Chicago and were stationed at the NFL's gigantic outside Draft Town festivities, located just east of the Auditorium Building.

"I'm working longer than they wanted me to because it's just so exciting," said Ester Rogers, Roosevelt's recent assistant provost of



3 DAYS 200,000 ATTENDEES 8.8 MILLION VIEWERS 4.7 MILLION TWEETS



institutional research and assessment who handed out fan bags at the NFL's Selection Square, and actually got a few hugs from the fans.

"I think we put on a fabulous party," said Kristina Peterson, associate professor of counseling and human services in Roosevelt's College of Education. She spent opening night volunteering in the NFL's VIP hospitality tent and a second day with fans in line for the Vertical-Jump challenge, an assignment she won't forget as she got to interact with youngsters from a pee-wee football team and a grandmother taking the challenge on a whim.

Jocelyn Ashford-Yarbrough, administrative secretary for Roosevelt's Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences Department, had a similar experience talking to fans in line for the Sweetness Simulator. "Everybody from the young to the old wanted to try it. They got in flight suits and were thrilled to be able to just float in the air. It was an amazing experience – our community coming together on behalf of this event. I was so proud to be from Roosevelt."

Another Roosevelt volunteer had the opportunity to interact with fans as they headed inside the theatre. "It was really neat to hear people from out of town say, 'This is such a beautiful place,'" said Elizabeth Gomez De La Casa, who worked side-by-side with many Roosevelt student volunteers handing out fan bags as the crowd poured into the theatre. "All of us were saying to one another, 'This is our theatre. We shouldn't take it for granted. This is part of Roosevelt University.' It was really a proud moment."

Pride was something that Weil felt as he watched the opening-night extravaganza that put Chicago, the University and its theatre into the limelight.

"My grandmother told me many stories about my great-grandfather and the theatre, but I can't remember any involving an athletic event of any consequence," he said. "I do know my great-grandfather certainly believed the theatre was built for all people and all activities. I think the NFL Draft is something that would have made him proud." 📷



Ashley Williams is a Roosevelt University journalism student who did a stint putting out tweets in the NFL's social media tent in the run-up to opening night of the NFL Draft.

HASHTAG INSIDE SCOOP

BY LAURA JANOTA

As a volunteer at the NFL's social media tent in Grant Park, Roosevelt University journalism student Ashley Williams did her share of tweeting.

Williams, 22, worked directly with the Chicago Sports Commission in the run-up to the Draft's opening night on April 30, writing up dozens of 140-character tweets that addressed questions about the Draft that were percolating on Twitter.

Hours before the start of the three-day event, fans were still seeking answers to the basics. "When is the Draft?" "Where is it taking place?" "How do I get tickets?" "Where is Draft Town?" were just a few of the tweets that the Sports Commission intercepted using a new monitoring software that Williams had never worked with before.

"I really loved the experience, and the opportunity to compose

many of the tweets that went out in response to questions," said the master's-level student who will be graduating from Roosevelt in December 2016.

"Ashley is really passionate about social media and she's had a lot of experience with it, which made her a natural for the NFL's social media tent," said Billy Montgomery, assistant professor of journalism at Roosevelt and one of Williams' mentors.

Since 2012, Williams has held a variety of internships and communications positions which required her to use social media skills.

As a talk radio and programming intern for Sirius XM Satellite Radio's "Broadminded" program out of Washington, D.C., Williams managed the "Broadminded Broads" Facebook and Twitter accounts. As an intern for the National Society for Collegiate

Scholars, she managed and promoted the chapter's Facebook accounts. And while working as a communications associate for the U.S. Postal Service in Arlington, Va., one of Williams' jobs was to update social media accounts with announcements from the U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General.

Currently a freelance writer with *U.S. News and World Report*, Williams had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Chicago Sports Commission, Choose Chicago and the NFL Network during her stint in Draft Town's social media tent.

"It was a great learning experience for me to be a part of an event where social media was so important," said Williams, who enjoyed the experience so much that she has applied to be a social media intern with the Chicago Sports Commission.



CUTLER

The Composing Process

First Note to Final Score

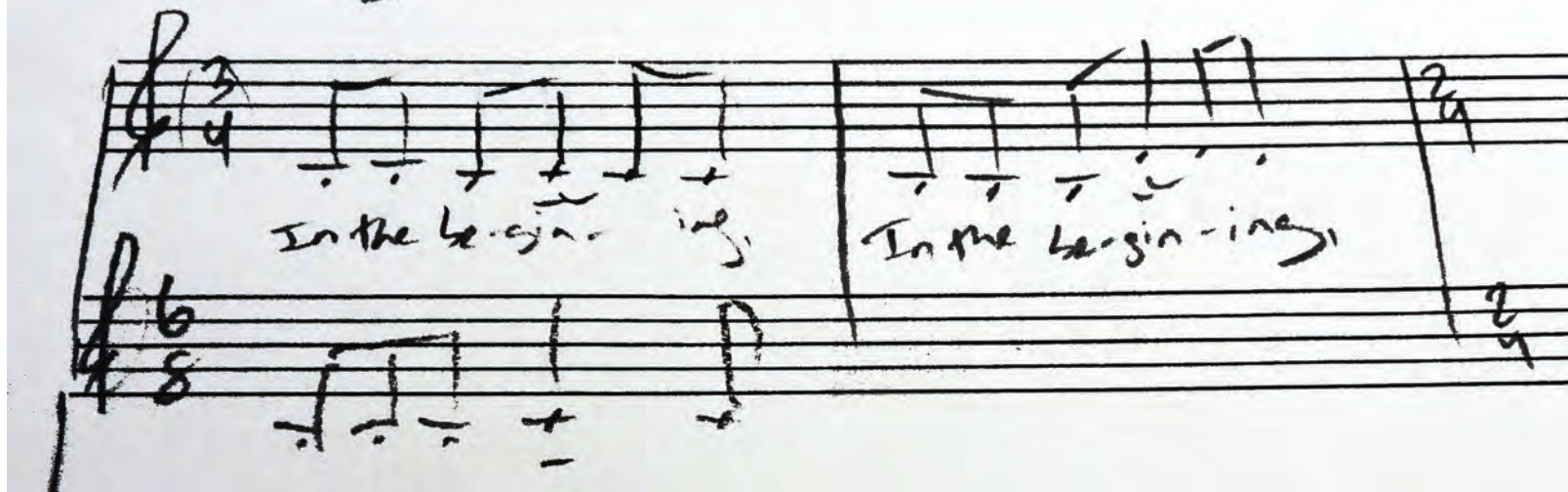
BY STACY GARROP, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMPOSITION

I am a composer and a teacher. As a composer, I write music for chamber ensembles, choirs and orchestras. My recent works include *Mythology Symphony*, which had its world premiere by Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts Orchestra in January 2015 (and will be commercially released by Cedille Records in November 2015) and *Terra Nostra*, a large-scale oratorio for two choirs, four soloists and a chamber orchestra, which will receive its world premiere in November 2015 in San Francisco. Along with composing, I thoroughly enjoy teaching. Since September of 2000, I have taught composition and orchestration to undergraduate and graduate students in the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

At performances of my music, I am frequently asked how I compose. Do I hear it all in my head? Do I use computers to assist me? Have I ever experienced writer's block? These are excellent questions, all of which I will address as I demystify the composing process. The following steps and strategies are not only what I use when I compose, but also what I teach my composition students. »

Bustling

WORK IN PROGRESS Handwritten sketch of *Terra Nostra* by Stacy Garrop, below, and the final version at right.



Part I: Pre-Composition

For me, the first stage of beginning any new piece is research. This stage involves studying other composers' works, as well as familiarizing myself with the particular instrumentation for which I'll be composing. For instance, when I wrote *Helios* for brass quintet (an ensemble that consists of two trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba), I became acquainted with the ensemble by studying brass quintet repertoire, listening to recordings and attending live concerts. These activities helped me to ascertain the ensemble's strengths and weaknesses, as well to as detect possible performance issues (the tuba, for instance, needs a lot of air to produce sound and performers tire quickly, so a composer must leave ample time between passages for the musician to breathe). The more I understand how the ensemble works, the better I'll be able to compose for the group.

Along with conducting research, I brainstorm about possible sources of inspiration. When a work is commissioned, I find out from the commissioners what their interests are and incorporate these interests into my brainstorming process. In the case of *Noir Vignettes*, my double bass and piano piece, the commissioner told me of his fondness for movies, and of his particular interest in the director Alfred Hitchcock. I watched Hitchcock's *Vertigo* and *Rebecca* and, while I didn't care for Hitchcock's filmmaking style, I became very intrigued with film noir, the genre for both of these movies. I watched several more movies in this style, including *The Lady from Shanghai*, *Double Indemnity*, *This Gun for Hire* and *The Maltese Falcon*. After watching each movie, I wrote down my thoughts on various aspects; for instance, a femme fatale could have an exotic, enchanting sound, whereas a gumshoe detective smoking his last cigarette of the day should sound slow and jazzy. Alternately, if the commissioner wants me to choose the work's topic, I select a subject that is of personal interest to me. Recent topics include the Greek myth of Icarus, the boy who flew too close to the sun, and a depiction of the starkness of Wyoming's landscape.

At some point during the brainstorming stage, I start putting pencil to paper. This can be a rather daunting moment. What if the notes I write down aren't interesting? How can I possibly fill up the entire page with thought-provoking, well-conceived music? Self-doubt and high expectations can make it difficult for a composer to compose. To aid myself through this part of the writing process, I use a strategy: whenever I begin a new piece, I write one minute of music a day for seven days. It doesn't have to be a great minute of music, or even a good minute, but it has to be one full minute. The music need not be continuous – I can compose three different ideas, each 20 seconds long. Giving myself permission to compose without judgment is an essential element of the strategy. While the first few days of composing are typically challenging, I eventually produce ideas that have real potential. I also get increasingly focused on how to creatively use the instruments.

Once I have written several minutes of music, the sorting process begins. I select the strongest, most intriguing ideas and start to flesh them out further. To do this, I analyze the musical material from every angle. What musical pitches comprise the melody? What are the intervals between each set of pitches? How would it sound if I turned the intervals upside down or reversed their order? Can I extend these ideas into longer phrases? What if I move the pitches higher or lower? I will often cover entire tabloid size pieces of paper with various configurations of each musical idea and refer to these papers throughout the entire composing process when I need more material from which to draw. As my musical materials become more substantial, I create the overall formal structure, or "roadmap," of the entire piece. Having a roadmap is critical, for how can a piece have direction if you don't know where it is going? Building from the musical materials that I've been developing, I draw a graph for the work with the x-axis representing time and the y-axis representing the level of tension in the music. The graph can show many other elements as well: how many sections or movements the piece will have, what musical characteristics each section or movement will contain and so on.



Part 2: Composition

Once I've developed enough pre-compositional work, I delve completely into composing. This is the most exhilarating stage of the process as I am entirely engaged in sketching and developing my musical materials into full sections. For a while, I am conscious of every decision that I make while composing; however, the further I get in composing a piece, the more these decisions are being made subconsciously. I tend to write faster as this process moves along, as well as find it difficult to do anything but compose once I've fully hit my stride. Going to concerts, seeing friends for dinner, running errands – all of these can break my concentration on the piece and make it hard to resume where I left off. As a result, I generally find it easier to compose in large blocks of time, usually anywhere from two to four hours. Once I've reached a natural resting place, such as a break between sections or the end of the movement, then I will stop for the day.

In the initial brainstorming stages, I sketch ideas using pencil and paper. Sometimes I'll use my piano to tinker with possible ideas, while other times I'll sketch directly from my head onto paper. I will work in this manner long enough for the ideas to take shape on paper; then I transition to a computer. I use a software notation program that allows me to hear the music that I write, as well as to create a beautifully engraved final score. Computer programs are a tremendous help to composers – you don't have to wait until you rehearse with musicians to hear how your music will sound – but you need to use these programs carefully. Software programs never achieve an accurate, realistic balance between instruments so composers must account for balancing issues themselves. Nonetheless, I find this playback to be very useful, as I can check to ensure that my rhythms, tempi and pitches are to my liking.

Every now and then, I need to evaluate what I've composed thus far. Is the music on the right track? Do the various musical ideas work together or has something shifted? While these assessments are valuable for a piece of any length, I find them to be even more important when composing a long piece. For example, when I wrote

my piece *Sanctuary* for violin, cello and piano, I wanted the piece to start at a point of complete relaxation and, over the course of 13 minutes, progressively get more and more tense. This movement ends at a moment of extreme tension, which nicely sets up a very quiet beginning to the second movement. The first idea I composed seemed suitable to open the first movement, but after brainstorming additional ideas, I realized that the initial material would work far better if it occurred around the fourth minute. What had changed? I finally realized that my first idea had too much tension already and couldn't be used at the beginning of the work. This realization helped me to compose a slow, mysterious opening that gives the piece ample room to grow.

Occasionally while composing, I will arrive at a spot where I can't seem to progress any further. Some people call this writer's block. When I reach such an impasse, I back up to a few measures prior to the trouble spot and rewrite the passage at least two additional times, each time leading to a different musical outcome. Within an hour or so, I have developed three or more possible options to consider. Not only does this method usually unearth a new way to proceed, but it supplies additional musical material that I can use elsewhere in the piece. This strategy also enforces the point that there's no one exact path that a composition needs to follow; instead, there are several potential paths, each with its own strengths and weaknesses.

Once all of the notes are in the computer, I proceed to the final stage of composing: adding all of the details. These details include anything that shapes the music and gives it nuance. While these details may not seem as important as the choosing of pitches and rhythms, the truth is quite the opposite. Imagine hearing an entire orchestra playing loudly, followed by a moment of silence and then a single trumpet enters quietly. Now imagine if the orchestra plays very quietly and – without a moment of silence – the trumpet enters obnoxiously loud. While the notes and rhythms didn't change between these scenarios, the details did and with startlingly different results.

Part 3: Post-Composition

Now that the composing phase is complete, I move on to proofing the full score and individual parts. I don't particularly enjoy this phase – it is tedious compared to the excitement of composing – but if I don't work carefully, then rehearsals could be disastrous as the instrumentalists encounter mistake-laden scores. In addition to a full score that shows all of the instruments that play in the piece, each instrument requires its own individual "part" (for a string quartet, this would result in four separate parts for the ensemble's two violins, viola and cello). Once I have made all of the instrumental parts, I check these against the full score three times to ensure that I have caught inconsistencies and errors. This phase can easily take just as long as composing the piece, if not longer, depending on the number of instruments involved.

I also need to give the piece a title. Technically, this can happen prior to composing the work, or at any stage along the way, including after composing is done. Sometimes, I'll think of a title that shapes the brainstorming phase of pre-composing. This was the case with the double bass and piano piece; once I figured out that the piece would reference film noir, I easily came up with the title *Noir Vignettes*. At other times, I struggle to find a suitable title even after the piece is completed. Recently, I composed a piece in honor of Cedille Records' 25th Anniversary season. James Ginsburg, the label's president, mentioned that he had an interest in street musicians (or "buskers") he encountered in the city of Prague. The word "buskers" didn't appeal to me as a title, nor did a string of unfortunate titles that followed. I finally decided on *Bohemian Café*, as it aptly describes the carefree, freewheeling atmosphere that I invoke with the music.

No piece is ever complete until I have rehearsed it with performers. In this phase, I can make adjustments to various musical elements – increase a dynamic here or change an articulation there – to bring out more subtleties in the music. This is also the phase in which I finally discover what passages don't sit well in a performer's hands. Performers generally begin rehearsing without the composer present; I will listen to one or two rehearsals as the premiere draws near. This allows the musicians to work out the music for themselves and to create their own interpretation of my piece before I give them my thoughts.

The final phase of any piece is its premiere. This is a thrilling moment! My adrenaline is pumping throughout the event, from any pre-concert discussion I have onstage for the audience, to listening to the musicians play the piece, to conversing with audience members afterward. I greatly enjoy this wonderful moment. At the same time, I am assessing the music as it is played, ascertaining where adjustments need to be made. I usually make a small round or two of revisions after the premiere, which I test out at the piece's next performance. By the third performance, I have worked out all of the kinks and can finally consider the work finished. When the composing process is complete and I'm pleased with the final results, then I have successfully navigated the composing process from the first note to the final score. 🎵



Bill Billingham Photography

STACY GARROP'S music is dramatic, lyrical and programmatic, as she enjoys telling stories through music. Garrop received degrees in composition from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (Bachelor of Music), University of Chicago (Master of Music) and Indiana University at Bloomington (Doctor of Music). She joined the Chicago College of Performing Arts in 2000. Garrop has received numerous awards and grants including a Fromm Music Foundation Grant, Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Elaine Lebenbom Memorial Award, Sackler Prize and two Barlow Endowment commissions. Theodore Presser Company publishes her works, and her music is commercially available on 20 CDs. Garrop has been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra, Albany Symphony, Chanticleer, Chicago *a cappella*, Capitol Saxophone Quartet, Cedille Chicago, Gaudete Brass Quintet, San Francisco Choral Society and WFMT 98.7 FM.

Contact Stacy Garrop at sgarrop@roosevelt.edu

NOTEWORTHY



**A GIFT THAT
KEEPS ON GIVING**
An heirloom 1914 Steinway
piano was recently donated
to the Chicago College of
Performing Arts. **Read the full
story on the following page. »**



NANCY STONE / CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Connecting Through Music

Nancy Hablutzel was moved to action when she read about violinist Krissy Cooper's courageous struggle to graduate earlier this year from Roosevelt University in a front-page story in the *Chicago Tribune*. A lawyer who has practiced and taught disability law in Chicago, Hablutzel understood Cooper's difficulty in trying to get her school work done while dealing with pain and illness related to a rare connective-tissue disorder known as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS).

"When I got to the part in the article about the syndrome I remember thinking 'Oh yes, I know what she is going through,'" said Hablutzel, who, like Cooper, has been diagnosed and is dealing every day with the genetic condition and one of its jarring symptoms, hyper-extension of joints that move past the expected range of motion.

She was impressed by the fact that Cooper and her mother, Rebecca Binkley, had the courage to speak publically about the condition that few know about or understand. Even more so, Hablutzel was moved by the care that Roosevelt's Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) took to accommodate Cooper in her quest for a Bachelor

of Music degree in Violin Performance, which Cooper received in May.

"I felt that Roosevelt University went beyond what was required to help this young woman get through school, and it made me want to show my support," said Hablutzel, who decided to donate an heirloom Steinway piano to CCPA.

"I want the piano to be played by serious students and to be well taken care of," said Hablutzel who owned the Steinway since 1961, but had not played it herself in 10 years due to the onset of arthritis in her finger joints. "By giving this piano to Roosevelt's music school, I know I won't have to worry about its future," she said.

The piano arrived at the University in July and is used by CCPA students during chamber rehearsals, vocal coachings and private lessons. "There are a lot of pianos out there that aren't good for heavy use, but I'm always excited when someone donates a high-quality piano like this," said Roosevelt piano technician Wesley Owen of the Steinway, which has been valued at \$22,000. "It's a very generous gift and I think that CCPA and its students will get decades of use out of this instrument," he said.

Chicago attorney Nancy Hablutzel (left) was inspired to give her Steinway piano to Roosevelt University after reading a story about recent graduate Krissy Cooper. Both women have a rare condition called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

The New \$10

Will Eleanor Roosevelt be the first female on U.S. currency?

Members of the Roosevelt University community not only support the concept; they've also been actively campaigning for Eleanor Roosevelt to receive the nod. In a lobbying effort launched earlier this year, Roosevelt's Student Government Association began encouraging people to vote to put Roosevelt on the nation's money.

"We're really excited about this campaign and the prospect of igniting people to vote for a woman who has meant a lot to our University," SGA President Phil Crawford said recently.

Students from Roosevelt's Women's and Gender Studies program, the University's Center for New Deal Studies and University Historian Lynn Weiner have been among leading activists supporting the former First Lady.

"In 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated Roosevelt University. This is a wonderful way for us to honor her while we celebrate our 70th anniversary," said Weiner.



Roosevelt community members initially participated in a voting drive organized by the grassroots not-for-profit, Womenon20s.org, which recommended that abolitionist Harriet Tubman replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill. The campaign took a twist over the summer when U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced a woman would be placed on the nation's \$10 bill, perhaps in combination with the man who resides there now, Alexander Hamilton.

Since then, the U.S. Treasury Department has been seeking input from Americans on deserving women for the \$10 bill: The only requirement is that she be deceased and that she embody democracy, the theme that is to be featured on a new \$10 bill whose redesign will be unveiled in 2020 in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the right of women to vote.

To have a say with the Treasury Department decision, use #TheNew10 hashtag on Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram.



Roosevelt officially dedicated 70 years ago

Seventy years ago, on Nov. 16, 1945, at dinner before 1,000 people in the Stevens Hotel, now the Hilton Chicago, Roosevelt College was officially dedicated "to the enlightenment of the human spirit" by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

She also proclaimed the new school in the name of her late husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Fourteen years later, Roosevelt University was rededicated in her name as well.

During her speech, Roosevelt said that Roosevelt College "was founded to provide educational opportunities for persons of both sexes and of various races on equal terms" and "to maintain a teaching faculty which is both free and responsible in the discovery and dissemination of truth."

Commencement Speakers Impress and Inspire

Three distinguished Roosevelt University alumni, Congressman Michael Quigley, commercial real estate broker Goldie Wolfe Miller and public relations executive Al Golin, received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees at the University's Spring 2015 Commencement on May 9. The Commencement ceremonies also featured two student speakers, Amelia Enberg and Lucas Coker, and the presentation of a distinguished service medal to George Carter, Roosevelt's lead campus safety officer.

In addition, at a separate ceremony for the College of Pharmacy on May 21, the speaker was Thomas E. Menighan, CEO of the American Pharmacists Association.

Quigley told students receiving degrees from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education at the 10 a.m. ceremony that they will be recognized for how they handle setbacks rather than successes. To illustrate his point, he described a meeting he had with Barack Obama the day after Obama lost an Illinois Senate election. "I wisely told him: 'There will be something else better for you some day.'"

Quigley graduated from Roosevelt with a BA in 1981 and briefly served as an adjunct professor of political science for the University from 2006-2007, lecturing on politics, the environment and local government. He was elected as a member of the House of Representatives in April 2009, succeeding Rahm Emanuel in Illinois' 5th district. As a member of Congress, his legislative agenda has focused on government reform and fiscal responsibility.

Wolfe Miller delivered the Commencement address and, along with Golin, received an honorary degree at the 2 p.m. ceremony for graduates of the Walter E. Heller College of Business, the Chicago College of Performing Arts and the Evelyn T. Stone College of Professional Studies. Noting that the next



CONGRESSMAN MIKE QUIGLEY

day was Mother's Day, Wolfe Miller saluted all the mothers in the audience and paid tribute to her late mom who encouraged her to never give up. "My parents came to the United States after World War II not knowing English," she said, "but they were determined to succeed."



GOLDIE WOLFE MILLER

After starting out in advertising, Wolfe Miller, a 1967 Roosevelt graduate, class president and valedictorian, used her negotiating skills to become a successful real estate broker. During a 40-year career, she completed approximately \$3 billion in transactions, making her one of the country's most successful female real estate brokers. Realizing that women are an underrepresented group in real estate, in 2007 Wolfe Miller started the Goldie B. Wolfe Miller Women Leaders in Real Estate Initiative at Roosevelt's Heller College of Business. It prepares women for leadership roles in all sectors of real estate.

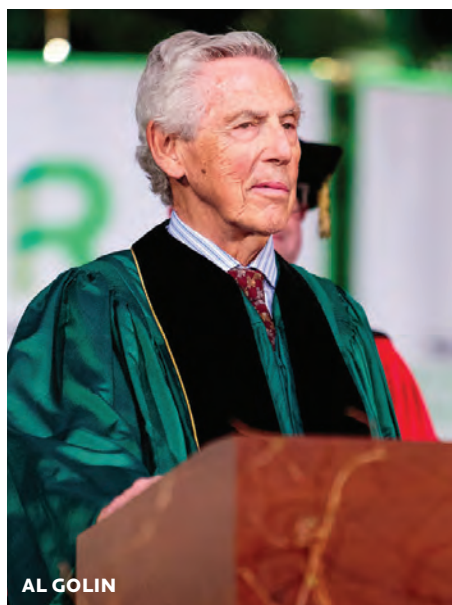
Golin, founder of the Golin public relations and communications firm, graduated from Roosevelt University in 1950 and is still active with the University as a member of its Board of Trustees. In acknowledging his honorary degree, he told the graduates to be curious. "If there is one single trait that all successful people have, it is curiosity."

In 1956 Golin founded his public relations firm and the following year gained McDonald's as a client after he made a cold call to former

CEO Ray Kroc during the restaurant's early years. He and his firm have been working for McDonald's ever since. Headquartered in Chicago with offices across the globe, Golin is head of one of the largest public relations companies in the country with clients such as Toyota, Johnson & Johnson and Nintendo of America.

Enberg, an Integrated Marketing Communications graduate with a minor in International Studies, was the student speaker at the 10 a.m. ceremony. She described how grateful she was for the varied experiences and opportunities she had at Roosevelt. These included being a member of the first class of Roosevelt's Four Freedoms fellows program, a 4A's Multicultural Advertising intern, Washington Media Scholars fellow and member of Roosevelt's softball team.

Coker, the student speaker at the 2 p.m. ceremony, discussed his battle with stage IV cancer while earning his degree in Criminal Justice. "My mantra is 'Never Give Up,' and that is the mantra I live with every day of my life," he said. His goal is to pursue a PhD so he can teach.



AL GOLIN



GEORGE CARTER

Security officer Carter was honored by recently retired Roosevelt President Chuck Middleton, who officiated at his last Roosevelt commencement as president and the 131st he has participated in during a 50-year career in higher education. In presenting the Distinguished Service Medal, he said Carter "is one of the University's most visible and popular employees." Carter joined Roosevelt 18 years ago and warmly greets students, faculty and staff every day when they enter the University. In his brief remarks, Carter

thanked the graduates' parents "for sending such caring and cooperative students to Roosevelt."

At the pharmacy graduation held at the Westin Chicago Northwest hotel, Menighan congratulated the new doctors of pharmacy for completing the three-year program. A national leader in the pharmacy industry, he is a partner in Pharmacy Associates, a multistate specialty pharmacy company that serves patients in much of the United States.



AMELIA ENBERG



LUCAS COKER

EAL partnership delivers sustainability, cost savings and scholarships

At a time when higher education institutions across the nation are dealing with fiscal challenges, Roosevelt University is becoming a leader in saving money on routine purchases while earning scholarship dollars for its students.

Thanks to an innovative partnership that began in late 2012 with the not-for-profit Educational Assistance Ltd. (EAL) in Wheaton, Ill., the University has saved more than half a million dollars and received a total of \$55,000 in cash donations from EAL for student scholarships.

"We are proud to be a part of a cutting-edge initiative that saves resources that would otherwise go to landfills and purchasing dollars that might otherwise have to be made up through tuition," said Paul Matthews, assistant vice president for campus planning and operations at Roosevelt University.

The program works as follows. Distributors, suppliers and manufacturers donate excess facilities maintenance inventory, frequently with minor cosmetic flaws, such as air conditioners, heaters, painting supplies, tools, toilets, faucets, toilet paper, cleaners, storage containers, work boots, work gloves, etc.

Colleges and universities in the EAL network routinely order what they need through an online discount ordering system. Using the system, Roosevelt so far has saved \$576,595, which it has earmarked for scholarships to students in need. In addition to this system, EAL also offers its partners the opportunity

to receive cash scholarships based on their level of participation in the program.

"This partnership has boosted our ability to do work in house instead of paying contractors," said Roosevelt University Chief Engineer Gustave Kalady who routinely makes purchases through the EAL system, including tools being used by Roosevelt engineers for building maintenance, such as rodding of drain lines, duct work repairs, welding and electrical maintenance, which would otherwise have to be done by contractors.

"I really feel great when I go to the site and find something that we need because I know that the purchase is contributing to scholarships for our students," said Kalady.

A number of Roosevelt students also are expressing appreciation for financial assistance made possible by the initiative. "This scholarship will help me financially with tuition as well as book costs," Roosevelt elementary education major Rhiannon Beucher wrote recently in a thank-you letter to EAL. "I will continue to work as hard as I can in my studies to become a dedicated elementary teacher. Without your generosity this wouldn't be possible."

There are 42 U.S. colleges and universities in the EAL network, including Roosevelt and eight others located in the Chicago area. Other higher education institutions in the EAL partnership are located on the East Coast, Midwest and the states of Florida and Texas. Roosevelt is the organization's top partner.

Partnership benefits biology teachers and students in Northwest suburbs

Roosevelt University, Harper College and three Northwest suburban school districts are working together to enhance educational opportunities in the sciences for high school teachers and students in the Northwest suburbs. The innovative arrangement allows high school biology teachers from Districts 211, 214 and 220 to take courses at Roosevelt's Schaumburg Campus toward a Master of Science in Biology degree, enabling them to teach high school biology courses that will be accepted for credit at the high schools and by Harper College.

"We are preparing the region's high school instructors to teach college-level biology and we welcome them to our diverse graduate student body," said Robert Seiser, associate professor of biology and director of Schaumburg academic partnerships for Roosevelt's College of Arts and Sciences.

The first group of 12 high school teachers from Districts 211 and 220 began graduate studies at the Schaumburg Campus in June. Those who complete 18 credit hours and who already hold a master's degree in a non-biology field of study will be eligible to teach college biology and can expect to begin teaching dual-credit biology courses in their high schools beginning in fall 2016.

The agreement officially signed by Roosevelt and member institutions that are part of the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS) is expected to be a win-win for all parties involved. "Thanks to Roosevelt University's flexibility, our science teachers will be able to conveniently work on their master's degrees in biology close to home and in the evenings," said Lisa Small, associate superintendent for instruction at District 211.

May we take that off your hands?

Donate excess inventory!

EAL
Educational Assistance Ltd.

www.inventorydonations.org

1600 E. Roosevelt Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

For more information
800.679.0581

For more information on the EAL program, visit inventorydonations.org.

Performing Arts Library receives collection for theatre students

Roosevelt University's Performing Arts Library has received a large collection of theatre-related books, musical scores, CDs and DVDs from the Ray Lonergan Memorial Library of Actor's Equity Association. Thirty-seven boxes of materials in all were donated.

"A lot of this new collection is historical in nature, and it contains some gems," said Richard Schwegel, director of Roosevelt's Performing Arts Library, which is located on the upper floor of the University's Murray-Green Library in Chicago.

There are actor's biographies, texts on Shakespeare plays, DVDs of Broadway musicals and CDs of a number of famous shows including *Ziegfeld's Follies*, by the famed impresario whose father, Dr. Florenz Ziegfeld, Sr., founded the Chicago Musical College, which today is part of Roosevelt's Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA).

Hundreds of books as well as sheet music from Broadway musicals and other shows come from the collection of well-known actor, writer, director and producer Sidney Eden. Approximately 600 CDs and DVDs originally donated to the association's library by the late actor Leonard Weiner are also part of the new collection.



The historic collection includes books and musical scores from the collection of well-known actor, writer, director and producer Sidney Eden.

The gift is the result of a conversation at Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook, Ill. where Roosevelt Theatre Professor Christine Adair was coaching dialects and Iris Lieberman, chairperson of the Ray Lonergan Memorial Library and a volunteer librarian, was in the cast. Both agreed that Roosevelt's theatre students could benefit.

Roosevelt announces business fellowship program

A \$132,000 gift from the Clearing Corporation Charitable Foundation will enable 20 undergraduate students in finance and related majors each year in Roosevelt's Heller College of Business to participate in a new training and internship program that will prepare them for careers in the finance industry.

Heller College Dean Joseph Chan said the fellows scholarship program will target first generation college students or students who belong to underrepresented groups, in line with Roosevelt's social justice mission. "This innovative program will ultimately lead to job placements with financial organizations for our students," Chan said. "Because of the Clearing Corporation's thoughtful gift, Roosevelt students, the Heller College and businesses in Chicago and other cities will benefit."

This is the second major gift the college has received from the Clearing Corporation Charitable Foundation. Last year, it received



Dean Joseph Chan (left) said the program will lead to job placements in the finance industry.



\$200,000 for a new trading room and Bloomberg terminals. Part of this year's gift will also support the terminals and trading room.

Students selected for the competitive program will participate in professional development workshops, attend Finance Professional Speakers Series and receive training on Bloomberg terminals. After obtaining the Bloomberg User Certificate, they will be placed in internships with organizations

such as the Options Clearing Corporation, Chicago Board Options Exchange, CME Group, banks and brokerage houses.

Tanweer Hasan, the Rolf Weil Professor of Finance in the Heller College, was appointed the founding executive director of the Clearing Corporation Charitable Foundation Fellows Program. He said the first cohort of 20 students would be selected in the fall semester.

Alumna Pat Harris elected as new board chair

PAT HARRIS, global chief diversity officer and vice president of global community engagement of McDonald's Corporation, was elected as the 12th chair of Roosevelt University's Board of Trustees. Her three-year term began July 1. She succeeds James J. Mitchell III, who was elected a life trustee, after serving as board chair since 1997.

A 1980 Roosevelt graduate, Harris has the distinction of being one of a few African-American women currently chairing a university board. She joined Roosevelt's Board of Trustees in 2010 and previously served as vice chair and chair of the University's Presidential Search Committee.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to chair Roosevelt's Board of Trustees," Harris said. "I look forward to a great partnership with our new president, Ali



Malekzadeh, the board, staff and faculty. As a Roosevelt alumna, I take this role very seriously and look forward to doing everything possible to help our students today and in the future."

Harris said she and Malekzadeh will work together and collaborate with the Roosevelt community to ensure success during the current period of leadership transition. "It will be both personally and professionally rewarding because of what Roosevelt stands for and what we all believe is great for our students," she said.

At McDonald's, Harris is responsible for developing and implementing diversity strategies and global community engagement throughout the company, including its 36,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries. Under her leadership, McDonald's has been widely recognized for its commitment to inclusion and diversity and she was named one of the "Top 10 Diversity Champions in the Country" by *Working Mother* magazine.



Professor named to juvenile justice panel

HEATHER DALMAGE, sociology professor and director of Roosevelt's Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation, has been appointed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice School District 428 Board of Education.

An expert on race, education and family and as director of the Mansfield Institute, Dalmage has been a leading advocate for providing essential services to youth with disabilities who are caught up in the Cook County Juvenile Justice system.

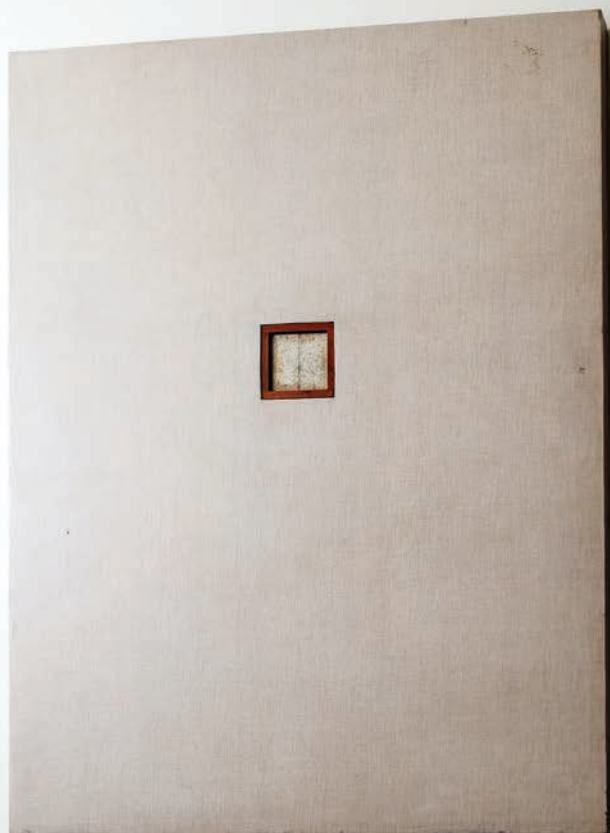
Since 2012, she has run a juvenile diversion program in conjunction with probation officers at the Cook County Juvenile Court building. The Mansfield Institute office also has been engaged in ongoing research about juveniles with disabilities and a liaison between youth and families

seeking special-education services and resources, as well as providers, advocates and schools.

As a District 428 school board member, Dalmage will have a say in education for students being held within the state's Department of Juvenile Justice.

"I know I will have a learning curve in front of me in this position, but I look forward to doing all I can to continue to challenge structural inequalities while addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged youths so they can have a chance to receive the services they need in order to have a future with hope rather than prison," she said.

Dalmage was appointed to the District 428 board by the Illinois State Board of Education. Her three-year term began in August.



Roosevelt graduate is artist in Iceland

JOHN FRASER, Roosevelt alumnus and award-winning artist, spent part of the summer in Iceland where he was artist-in-residence at Hafnarborg, a center of culture and fine art, located just south of Reykjavik. During his residency he worked on projects in two of his disciplines, collage and photography. A multifaceted artist, he also works within the disciplines of drawing, painting and sculpture.

"I am not an artist who is influenced or inspired by externals," said Fraser, a 1975 Roosevelt graduate who studied under art faculty members Susan Weininger, Jack Harris and Don Baum. "Rather, I am motivated by the examples set by others." Fraser's work has been featured in exhibitions around the world and it is held in public and private collections in the United States, Spain, Iceland, Canada, Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland and Scotland.

Roosevelt Life Trustee Don Hunt has collected a number of pieces by Fraser and earlier this year donated "Vow of Silence," at left, to the University where it hangs on the 13th floor of the Wabash Building.



Journalism alumna puts skills to work making Roosevelt videos

MARQUITA ANDERSON, a journalism alumna who graduated from Roosevelt University in May, is a natural for video. As a part-time assistant on Chicago's NBC5 assignment desk and as

the lead broadcaster for Roosevelt's new RUFire student video broadcast, Anderson has had her share of experience already creating on-camera news packages.

The recent graduate never anticipated, however, that she would be using her skills to make informational videos over the summer for Roosevelt University. "I never would have imagined that my love for news and my love for storytelling would become an entrepreneurial opportunity," said Anderson, whose segment on campus safety tips can be seen this fall on closed-circuit TVs in the Wabash Building cafeteria and on the 14th floor gateway to student housing. Among other projects, Anderson recently completed video packages about Roosevelt's Counseling Center services and Title IX issues.

"Marquita is incredibly talented and enthusiastic and I know that these experiences as well as all the work she's done in helping to get RUFire off the ground is paving the way for her future and her career success," said a Roosevelt journalism professor and student media advisor.



Photo exhibit documents decades of protest in Chicago



A GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARY PHOTO EXHIBIT that sheds new light on protest movements in Chicago between the late 1940s and early 1970s will be presented through Dec. 19 at Roosevelt University's Gage Gallery.

The exhibit features the work of Art Shay, one of the world's great living photographers. Shay opened his mammoth archive in Deerfield, Ill., to Roosevelt University historian Erik Gellman, whose research focuses on 20th Century protest movements in America.

"The provocative photos in this exhibit, most of which have never been seen before, are likely to change what we know and how we think about protest movements in Chicago," said Gellman, the show's curator. Gellman spent the last year culling photos from Shay's archives.

Early Cold War protests, Chicago's Freedom Movement marches, the 1968 Vietnam War demonstrations, photographs of Richard J. Daley and the Chicago police, as well as struggles by the Black Power Movement, are part of the show.

The unusually organized show is centered on a 12-inch-high strip, comprised of hundreds of Shay's most telling protest images. The photo strip traverses around Gage Gallery's spaces. Above and below it are larger break-out shots by Shay of history-making street activism.

"We are breaking some rules on what a photo exhibit should look like and how the story should be told in order to capture the complexity of Chicago protest," said Gellman, who worked closely with Erica DeGlopper, the curator of Shay's photographic archive, in order to identify the most relevant photos and unique design for the new Gage Gallery show.

"With this exhibit, we hope to get people thinking about who the troublemakers really are when people take to the streets for peace, economic justice and democracy," said Gellman.

A photographer for *Life* magazine, *Time*, *Sports Illustrated* and many other national publications, Shay has photographed seven U.S. Presidents and also is well-known for his long friendship and collaboration in documenting Chicago with the late writer Nelson Algren.

Free and open to the public.

GAGE GALLERY, 18 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays
312-341-6458 | roosevelt.edu/gagegallery

Inspirational Roosevelt graduate appointed to Champaign City Council



CLARISSA NICKERSON FOURMAN overcame incredible obstacles to graduate from Roosevelt University's online Bachelor in Professional Studies degree program in 2012. A ward of the state of Illinois for much of her life, she moved from foster home to foster home as a child in

the Champaign-Urbana and Bloomington, Ill., areas. Dropping out of school at age 15, she spent most of her teenaged and young-adult years raising children. It then took the mother of five more than a decade to catch up and get on track with college and a career.

In June she was appointed to a seat on the Champaign City Council. Nickerson Fourman has unsurprisingly focused her message and image around three words: "We can overcome."

"I think there is a need for people to see that they can overcome anything if they put their minds to it," said Fourman, who works as a paralegal in Champaign. She is currently completing an online master's degree in legal studies from West Virginia University and is planning to go to law school.

A resident of northwest Champaign's District One where gun violence, drugs and unem-

ployment are common, Nickerson Fourman applied to fill a vacancy on the Champaign City Council because she wanted to help people who are struggling in her community.

"Just as Roosevelt University's story is one of courage, so is Clarissa Nickerson Fourman's," said Donnette Noble, assistant professor of organizational leadership and one of the alumna's mentors. "She exemplifies the University's goals that challenge students to exceed expectations and to own their own futures."

Receiving a college degree at Roosevelt has been a major turning point for Nickerson, 29, who, as a new city council member, talks about college as being transformational. "Roosevelt gave me hope. I know I wouldn't be able to do all that I'm doing now without the degree. It truly changed my life," she said.



Grad takes action with recycling app

DUSAN KOLENO wanted to do more than just sit passively after he learned about the growing need to conserve the planet's limited resources in a Roosevelt University Sustainability Studies Program course called Waste and Consumption. Graduating with honors from Roosevelt in May, the computer science major wanted to actively promote environmental justice so he developed a Google Play phone app for his honor's project that encourages recycling.

"My intention is to get more people to recycle," said Koleno, who developed the Recycle Tracker, which is now available for free to the public on Google Play.

Designed for use at home and at the office, Recycle Tracker enables users to keep informed about what and how much they are recycling, with comparisons, including pie and bar charts that can be viewed by weekly, monthly or annual usage.

"This is an extremely polished project and a practical application that can be used by just about anyone who is interested in recycling," said Michael Ruth, assistant professor of computer science and Koleno's honor's project advisor.

The application calculates energy savings due to recycling, including providing estimates of numbers of trees and electricity kilowatt hours saved. It also lets users scan a product's barcode, searching an online data base for the name and product's description.



DOWNLOAD IT:

Recycle Tracker

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=eu.koleno.recycletracker>

Ten-year journey leads to diploma

JOEL JACOBSEN can't walk or talk, but disabilities didn't stop him from earning a near-perfect 4.0 grade point average and receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in May from Roosevelt University. Jacobsen, who uses a wheelchair and Tobii eyegaze system to communicate, watched Roosevelt's graduation ceremony with family and friends from his home in Chandler, Ariz. via a streaming-live Internet connection and personal attention from Roosevelt Senior Web Developer Vickie Bertini.

"What an honor it was for me to be able to be there for Joel's graduation," said Bertini, who took Jacobsen's photo in his graduation robe and gave him his honor's cord, certificate, congratulatory letters and framed photo.

As a Roosevelt student, Jacobsen never asked for any special favors and always strived to do all of his assignments on time – much like

students without disabilities in his classes. "I remember him in my world history class. I had assigned students to do a presentation in front of the class and I asked Joel if he wanted to do it. He immediately indicated that he wanted to present," recalled Chris Chulos, associate professor of history at Roosevelt.

On the day of his presentation, Jacobsen came in not only with his project in writing. He also used a computer with a digital voice that read his presentation aloud to the class. Then, Jacobsen took students' questions, which were also answered with computer-voice assistance.

"I've taught for many years all over the world and I have to say that his presentation was one of the most memorable moments ever," said Chulos. "Here's someone who has faced challenges – and yet he didn't want to be given breaks. He's a persistent young man who is not going to take no for an answer."

A quadriplegic who doesn't have the ability to speak, Jacobsen is a native of Highland Park, Ill., who moved with his family to Chandler, Ariz. in 2012. At the time, he indicated a desire to finish a degree from Roosevelt, even though he was moving away. "I have a warm spot in my heart for Roosevelt," he wrote recently. Roosevelt "gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of a college education when that was almost unheard of for people like me. My Roosevelt professors always gave me the benefit of the doubt and I have to admit that encouraged me to work very hard."

In Arizona, Jacobsen took several online courses from Roosevelt for credit toward his history degree. He also took electives toward his degree at Arizona State University.

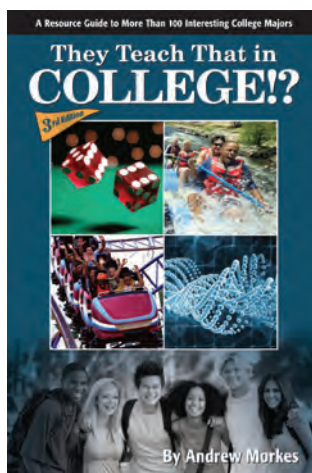


Joel Jacobsen received a bachelor's degree in history from Roosevelt University in May.

BY LAURA JANOTA

FACULTY IN PRINT

Roosevelt's faculty published books on a variety of fronts – in education, philosophy and creative writing. The year also brought attention to the University's Sustainability Studies Program, which was featured in a new addition of a resource book that is used widely by those researching majors and careers.

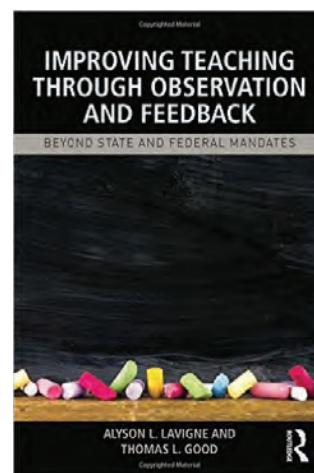


MICHAEL BRYSON, director of Sustainability Studies, provides an overview of Roosevelt's growing undergraduate Sustainability Studies Program in Andrew Morkes' *They Teach That in College? A Resource Guide to More Than 100 Interesting College Majors*. Now in its third edition from College & Career Press, the book prominently features Roosevelt's Sustainability Studies Program among unique college majors that also offer promising career opportunities.

"In the book, I define the field of sustainability studies, provide an overview of Roosevelt's program, describe our students and their varying career aspirations and discuss the positive employment outlook for those who earn degrees," said Bryson.

Used by high school and college career counselors to help young people plan for careers and also available at high school and public libraries across America, the book's section on Roosevelt's Sustainability Studies program illustrates the emergence of sustainability as a multifaceted academic discipline in higher education today.

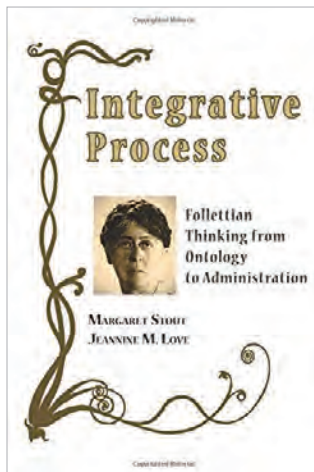
Bryson was among 73 college professors who were interviewed for the book, whose latest edition was published in March.



ALYSON LAVIGNE, assistant professor of curriculum studies, co-authored *Improving Teaching Through Observation and Feedback*, a guide for school principals who are being called on to design and conduct effective evaluations. Lavigne and Thomas Good, professor emeritus of educational psychology at the University of Arizona, were named authors of the month in March by Routledge Publishing for the book that provides a foundation for teacher evaluations based on best practices for improving the quality of the evaluation process.

"We wrote the book for principals who are in the trenches and don't always have the time they need to spend on teacher evaluations," said Lavigne, who is an expert on teacher evaluation under the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top initiative, which she believes is "a race to nowhere." "As part of Race to the Top, achievement growth must be a significant component of teacher evaluations," said Lavigne, "but one of the biggest flaws in following that approach is that student achievement data doesn't always correlate with the scores that teachers receive from administrators who observe them as part of the evaluation process."

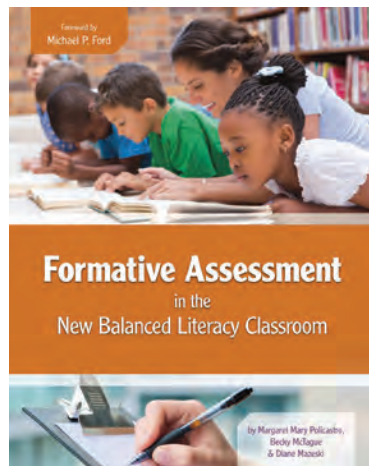
The book highly recommends that teacher interactions with students – and not solely test scores – be an important component of the evaluation process. Principals are encouraged to identify teacher actions that have been linked by research to student achievement and also are taught how to give teacher feedback that is effective and supportive.



JEANNINE LOVE, assistant professor of public administration, published an academic book on the major ideas of Progressive Era political theorist Mary Parker Follett, who some consider to be a “prophet of management” for today’s global economy and world. Love and Margaret Stout, associate professor of public administration at West Virginia University, provide new perspective to Follett’s writings and ideas in the book, *Integrative Process: Follettian Thinking from Ontology to Administration*.

The book is the first ever to analyze all of the late Harvard University professor’s published papers, lectures and books, giving new impetus for an understanding of democracy as a way of becoming and living in the world today.

“Mary Parker Follett was an influential theorist who believed in integrating disciplines as well as people in group situations in order to foster a collaborative approach to organization and governance in civil society, government and industry,” said Love. While her ideas fell out of favor after World War II, they had a resurgence in the management and administration fields beginning in the 1980s, and have been gaining increasing attention in the last 10 years. “We argue that Follett’s worldview, which relies on people to be active in groups in order to contribute and live together successfully in the world, is relevant and useful in our global society.”



Roosevelt education language and literacy professors **MARGARET POLICASTRO**, **BECKY MCTAGUE** and adjunct professor **DIANE MAZESKI** are the authors of *Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom*, which was published in July. A companion to Policastro’s and McTague’s *The New Balanced Literacy School: Implementing Common Core*, this second-in-a-series book makes an argument for using instruction, teaching and formative assessment methods, rather than state multiple-choice tests, a priority in order to best measure achievement in student literacy.

“Formative assessment lets you get to know your learners. It allows you to go deeper into the learning process with each student,” said Policastro, whose ideas for the book stem from Roosevelt’s innovative summer Reading Clinic, which recently completed its 28th year at the Schaumburg Campus. “The most important piece in the process is being able to teach students how to maintain their self-learning,” said Policastro of the book’s instruction that is expected to be a guide for K-8 teachers and administrators, as well as graduate education students and college professors. “Formative assessment is the number-one key to student achievement.”

During research for the book, McTague said she found clear evidence that students who are taught to monitor their own progress are the ones who become the highest-level achievers. “If we as teachers can give our students the tools to be able to assess their own progress, we can, without a doubt, transform the quality of education in this country, taking it to a higher level.”



CHRISTIAN TEBORDO, assistant professor of English and director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, has written his fifth book called *Toughlahoma*. Published in May by Rescue Press, the 120-page novel has been called a satire and fable of the late days of capitalism, effectively telling the story of a civilization’s failed attempts to become civilized.

Exploring the fictitious world of Toughlahoma, the book is “post-apocalyptic” and in the “Mad Max world of literature,” according to award-winning surrealist writer Amelia Gray. Meanwhile, David Ohle, author of the award-winning novel *Motorman*, called *Toughlahoma* “a non-stop rush of luscious language and ingeniously twisted story logic told from another dimension, perhaps the fifth or sixth.”



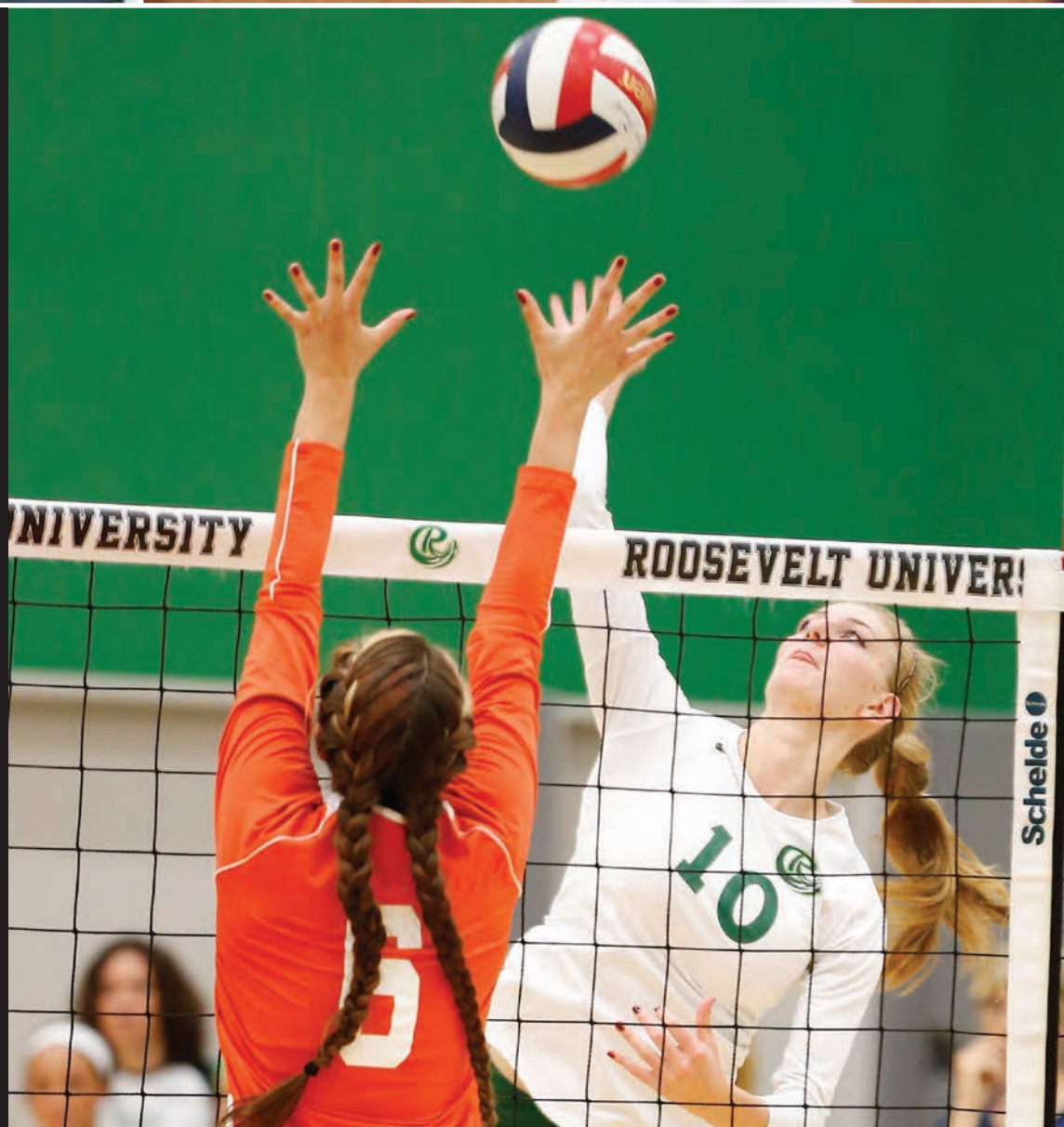
2015-16 Seasons in Full Swing

Swinging is a specialty of sophomore Matthew Spahr (above) of the men's golf team and freshman Emily Zalewski (top right) of the women's tennis team. All of Roosevelt's athletic squads will be swinging for the fences and aiming for success in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Sophomore attacker Brooke Lee (right) has stepped up for the Roosevelt volleyball team's offense. Senior guard Becky Williford (opposite page, top left) is the on-court catalyst for Roosevelt women's basketball with new head coach Keisha Newell calling the shots from the sideline.

The Lakers' cross country and track and field program is taking big strides forward under new coach and Roosevelt alum Aaron King, while the Roosevelt men's soccer team notched early road wins over top-25 foes this fall thanks in large part to the wizardry of All-CCAC midfielder Jose Garcia (opposite page, bottom).

For stats and schedules, visit roosevttlakers.com







Built and coached by a legend in the sport, Roosevelt's young softball program is making noise with veteran hitters and an emphasis on life beyond the diamond.

One of the most accomplished athletic resumes in the land belongs to Roosevelt head softball coach Amanda Scott.

As a collegian at Fresno State University, Scott was a four-time All-American and led the Bulldogs to the 1998 NCAA title. In addition to winning the Women's College World Series MVP that year, she was later named to the NCAA Division I Softball 25th Anniversary Team, one of a bevy of awards achieved during her time as a superior student-athlete.

To no one's surprise, Scott also enjoyed a successful international and professional playing career. She won a National Pro Fastpitch title and World Series MVP award in 2004, and she represented the United States in various international tournaments, serving as an alternate on the U.S. squad that won gold at the 2000 Summer Olympics.

After her playing career concluded, Scott pursued a career in coaching. In addition to her role as a player/coach for the New York/New Jersey Juggernaut, a professional team, she was at NCAA Division I schools Michigan State, Iowa and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Scott's ambitious drive to conquer challenges at every turn eventually led her to her current position at Roosevelt, where she had one of the grandest tests a first-time head coach could face: starting a team completely from scratch.

"I remember initially just hoping to be able to recruit an entire team," Scott, a California native who has called Chicago home for the last eight years, recalled of her first days on the job at Roosevelt in the fall of 2011. "Once that challenge was met, I looked to simply create an environment where each student-athlete could grow and thrive."

Before she could create that culture, Scott had to find student-athletes who were willing to take a leap and attend Roosevelt, a University that never had a softball program prior to their arrival.

That chance to be a part of startup in softball under the tutelage of an all-time great exhilarated Morgan Vogt, now a senior standout as the Lakers' ace pitcher and one of the team's top hitters.

"I was so excited to be in a new program and set goals and standards for the next teams to come," said Vogt, a Plainfield native who

is a three-time All-Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference pick and all-region honoree. "I love playing for Amanda. She's the main reason I chose this program. She treats us as equals and never talks down to us. She inspires us and makes us want to be better."

With almost every distinction imaginable in the sport to her credit, one might assume that Scott is all softball, all the time. Not so, as the culture she has espoused revolves around competitiveness on the diamond balanced with responsibility to academics and being good, productive people who can communicate and take pride in their work, no matter the realm.

"My main goal in coming to Roosevelt was to really grow more as a person and a player," said Amanda Ferguson, a senior second baseman from Colorado whose All-CCAC hitting was eclipsed only by classroom success that led to her being named Roosevelt's first-ever Academic All-American. "Amanda teaches us how to be the best softball players and human beings we can be."

Scott said she emphasizes academics first and foremost, with additional focus on the





Senior Morgan Vogt is Roosevelt's top pitcher and one of the Lakers' most dangerous hitters.

overall concept of team and supporting each other not just on the field but throughout the student-athletes' lives.

"College is an important time where you are constantly evolving as humans," said Scott. "We work to connect with all student-athletes to make sure they are getting the support they need individually, whether that be socially, academically or athletically."

"The thing I like about Amanda's approach is she connects the game to our own personal life," said Kristy Santora, a senior from Wheaton who has adapted from playing the outfield to catching behind the plate and has garnered all-region honors for her proficient offensive tear last spring. "The things I have learned from her about the game are things I can carry over into my everyday life."

Connecting lessons of softball to life's trials and tribulations is important, as most athletes on the NAIA level will not pursue the post-collegiate playing opportunities earned by Scott. If the Lakers' on-field performance is any indication of future life approaches, this group will be a hit.

That's because Roosevelt has been one of the top offensive teams in the CCAC since the program's debut. While some would call their 2013 season beginner's

luck, the Lakers' prowess at the plate has continued the last two years to frighten opposing pitchers.

"I talk to our hitters from a pitching perspective," said Scott, a nearly-unhittable hurler during her playing career. "I see the swing and evaluate how I would get them out as a pitcher and then go from there. We keep things simple and we don't try to change swings. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what it looks like or feels like so long as you get it done."

The 2016 season will be the swan song for Scott's first recruiting class, and the Lakers want to send their 11 seniors out on a high note with a first-ever CCAC tournament berth.

"We have a clear understanding of what it is we need to do to win and be successful," said Katie Neubauer, a Batavia-bred senior pitcher, infielder and potent weapon at the plate. "For many of us, this is our last season we have to play the sport we love, so I hope we can continue to compete and carry out the season as long as possible."

It may be the last go-around for this crop of Lakers, but the lessons they have culled from one of the game's best will help them go after all of life's challenges like a fastball that caught too much of home plate. 📧

ALUMNI EVENTS



70th Anniversary Gala

Roosevelt celebrated its 70th Anniversary in style with a special evening in the Auditorium Theatre on April 10. An Evening with the Roosevelts began with a gala dinner for 200 on the stage of the Theatre, and culminated with solo performances by two Emmy-award-winning actors.

FDR featured Ed Asner (*Lou Grant*) depicting President Franklin Roosevelt, and *Eleanor* featured Loretta Swit (above) (*M*A*S*H*) as First-Lady Eleanor. Chicago journalist and radio personality Rick Kogan served as the presenter for the evening, and special guests included Anne Eleanor Roosevelt, her nephew Nicholas Roosevelt and former Roosevelt presidents Chuck Middleton, Ted Gross and Rolf Weil.

The event, sponsored, in part, by Mesirow Financial and McDonald's, and chaired by Al ('50) and June Golin; Marsha ('67) and Michael Goldstein; George and Felecia Lofton; and Al Dinwiddie and Helen Ashford, realized more than \$88,000 for the University's General Scholarship Fund.



ALL ALUMNI EVENT

On March 19, Roosevelt University alumni, friends and faculty met for a discussion of the award-winning television series "Breaking Bad." The discussion was led by Professor Stuart Warner (middle below).

PARALEGAL STUDIES AFFINITY GROUP

The Paralegal Studies Affinity group held several successful events. On March 26, the group gathered at the Berghoff Restaurant for an evening of networking. On April 13 and 15, the group gathered for a presentation of Roosevelt's LinkedIn by Cheryl Kettler. Alumni learned how to use social media for their job searches.

SOUTH SIDE ALUMNI CHAPTER

On April 15, the South Side Alumni chapter gathered for an evening of pizza and trivia questions at the Exchequer Restaurant. Alumni had the opportunity to welcome new members and their guests.

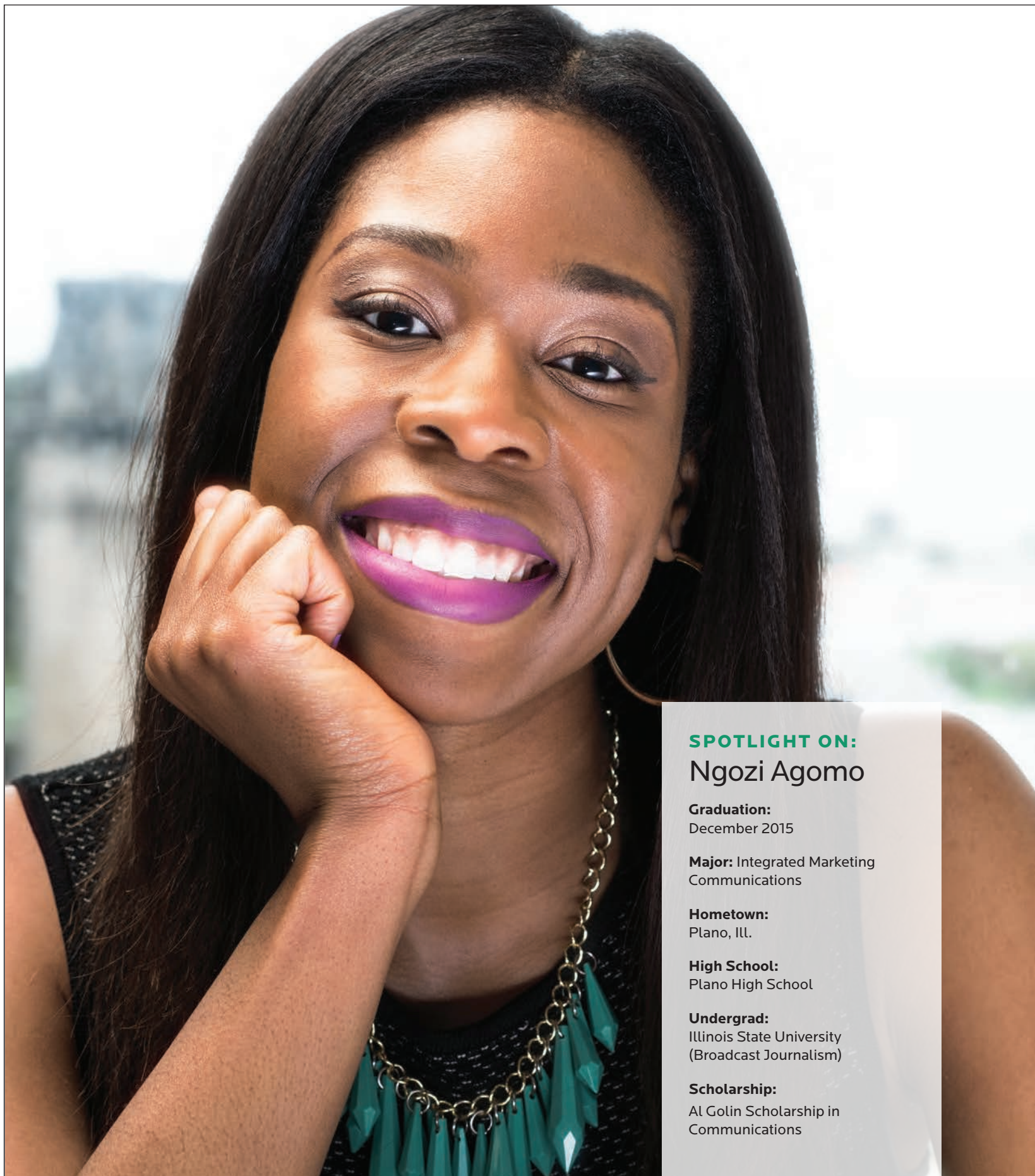
NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM

On Saturday, May 2, History Department alumni and faculty met for an afternoon walking tour of the site of the future home of the National Public Housing Museum located in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood. The tour was led by Brad Hunt. After the tour and neighborhood walk, the group gathered at the Three Aces for further conversation.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX GAME

On Aug. 28, Roosevelt University alumni, students, faculty and friends enjoyed an evening of baseball at U.S. Cellular Field where the Chicago White Sox took on the Seattle Mariners. It was a double treat as the game was also Elvis Night. Guests stayed and enjoyed the fireworks after the game.





SPOTLIGHT ON:
Ngozi Agomo

Graduation:
December 2015

Major: Integrated Marketing
Communications

Hometown:
Plano, Ill.

High School:
Plano High School

Undergrad:
Illinois State University
(Broadcast Journalism)

Scholarship:
Al Golin Scholarship in
Communications

Strategy for Success

NGOZI AGOMO had a change of heart when it came time to consider a career in broadcast journalism. After a year of AmeriCorps service in Houston, she decided that it was time for graduate school. She wanted a graduate program that would allow her to use her undergraduate education and advance her dream of being an entrepreneur while serving her community.

Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) caught her attention. She decided to pursue a graduate degree in this discipline because it would allow her to use her undergraduate education in concert with her creativity. Today, she calls it a “perfect fit” for her future.

Agomo initially thought she wanted to attend another university, but when she completed her research on graduate IMC programs in Chicago, she chose Roosevelt. Having the opportunity to experience graduate school in a diverse setting was important. According to Agomo, “There are more people in the program that look like me.” She also determined that Roosevelt’s IMC curriculum was “more complete and well-rounded.”

The last part was important. Agomo will tell you that there are many roads you can travel down with a graduate degree in IMC, including advertising, public relations and strategic planning. She determined that attending Roosevelt would allow her to explore more of those

roads and help her fine-tune what she was passionate about professionally. Her passion for serving her community was already there, something that is common in the lives of all Rooseveltians.

She was shocked when she learned that she had been selected to receive Roosevelt’s Al Golin Scholarship in Communications. She and her family are grateful for this opportunity. With younger siblings now in college, the news couldn’t have come at a better time. Her hard work was starting to pay off. This recognition and support were integral in propelling her toward her upcoming December 2015 graduation.

Her benefactor’s name immediately caught her attention. When Agomo told the former news director at Illinois State University, she confirmed that this scholarship was “a big deal.” “If you know anything about public relations and marketing, when you hear the name Golin (a Roosevelt alumnus and founder of the international public relations firm Golin), you know what it’s about, here and globally,” said Agomo proudly.

For Agomo, the class that opened her eyes widest was Brand Planning and Message Strategy with Stewart Young. “This is what he does in his full-time career. He was able to bring real-life examples from work into the classroom. He would ask us to give him feedback on what he’s doing at work and that’s so

cool.” Before Young’s class, she admittedly wasn’t fully aware of all the strategy and planning that surrounds brand creation and development. Now, she simply can’t get enough.

The area of public relations also garnered Agomo’s attention. She took Principles of Public Relations over the summer with Rashada Whitehead. “I could listen to her for hours,” said Agomo. Whitehead’s ability to connect theory with practical application in today’s workplace resonated strongly with Agomo. “A lot of professors at this university do that,” she said with a smile.

Agomo is currently working as a marketing intern at The Joint Commission, which accredits and certifies more than 20,500 health care organizations in the United States. Previously, she worked as an intern for another Roosevelt communications graduate, China Panion, handling social media and event planning in a health and wellness organization dedicated to empowering women to improve their health.

“For me, it’s about encouraging and empowering people, not just women, to live healthier and happier lifestyles,” Agomo said. Now her ultimate goal is to own her own business. Stay tuned. The rest of this remarkable young woman’s story is going to be exciting and productive. 📺

Would you like to help a student like Ngozi Agomo?

There are many ways to support Roosevelt students, including establishing a named scholarship. For information, visit www.roosevelt.edu/giving or call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (312) 341-4327.

WHERE RU?

BY PETER PIATKOWSKI

2010s

Jarrett Adams (BPS, '12) recently graduated from Loyola University Chicago, earning his law degree. Adams spent 10 years in jail on a wrongful rape conviction, before he was exonerated with the help of the Wisconsin Innocence Project. His plan is to work with low-income defendants. Adams graduated from Roosevelt University with honors.

Alexis Reiff (BB, '12) started her own business with a product called Heel Swaps. She was honored at Ipex 2014 with Woman Inventor of the Year.

2000s



➤ **Marguerite Lynn Williams** (MM, '03), a Chicago College of Performing Arts alumna recently joined the artists faculty at Roosevelt. She is the principal harp for the Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago and is a founding member of the Chicago Harp Quartet.

Matthew Foss (MFA, '05) won an award at the 42nd Annual Non-Equity Jeff Awards for Best New Adaptation, for his work on an adaptation of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. He was also nominated for best director and the play was nominated for best play.

Jesse Cook (BM, '06) was a featured soloist at the Fort Atkinson Community Band's summer concerts. After graduating from Roosevelt, he earned a master's in Music from the University of Texas at Austin and later earned a DMA in Trumpet Performance.

Kristin Sponcia (MM, '05), who is working on her graduate studies at the University of Illinois, performed with her quartet at Jazz Central, a nonprofit organization located in Minneapolis. She's a pianist, vocalist, arranger, and composer as well as an educator.

David Chivers (MS, '01) became president and publisher of the *Des Moines Register* in Iowa in May. An Iowa native, he received a master's in Integrated Marketing Communications at Roosevelt. With extensive experience in digital innovation, marketing and audience and product development, Chivers has worked for some of world's top business information and media brands including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's* and *MarketWatch* and had been chief digital officer at Jostens. He currently is also

the regional president of the U.S. Community Publishing Central Group.

1990s



➤ **Mark Mahoney** (BA, '99), a former adjunct at Roosevelt University, is the chair of the Computer Science Department at Carthage College. He started teaching full time at Carthage in 2002 and became the chair of the department in 2006. Before joining Carthage, he was a senior software engineer at Motorola. After graduating from Roosevelt, Mahoney attended Illinois Institute of Technology, where he earned an MS and a PhD in Computer Science.

John Proulx (BM, '99), a Grammy-winning alumnus of Roosevelt's Chicago College of Performing Arts, took part in a celebration of music in June to support voice and dance students at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Proulx contributed to jazz legend Nancy Wilson's Grammy-winning 2006 album *Turned to Blue*, co-writing one of the songs, *These Golden Years*. In 2006, Proulx also

released his debut album, *Moon and Sand*.

Roger Dattilo (MB, '96) has been appointed vice president of inventory for Advance Auto Parts, Inc. Dattilo previously had a 27-year career in the office supply industry.

➤ **Victoria Malawey** (BM, '99) has received tenure at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., in the Music Department. Her research interests include the analysis of songs, popular music, music theory pedagogy and gender studies. She received her PhD and MM from Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music.



Corinne Ness (MM, '96) was promoted to dean of Fine Arts and Humanities at Carthage College, where she has served as a member of the music faculty since 2002. She has taught internationally, including at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and the Central Academy of Theatre in Beijing. Along with her teaching, she is a sought-after expert on arts education and arts advocacy and has served on various

teams including the Chicago Public Schools Arts Liaison Support Team.

Jorge Perez (BB, '94) has been appointed by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner to the Urban Weatherization Initiative Board. The executive director of the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association, Perez has also worked for the CTA and the Chicago Department of Aviation.

1970s

Bobbie Raymond (BGS, '70; MA, '72) published her second book, *Three Sea Tales*. An avid snorkeler, Raymond was inspired by her passion for snorkeling and undersea creatures. Raymond founded the Oak Park Housing Center, a nationally recognized agency working on long-term racial diversity, which she led for 26 years as its executive director.

Diane Madsen (MA, '74), author of the DD McGill Literati Mystery series, received honorable mention at the London Book Fair for the Conan Doyle Notes. Her newest non-fiction book is titled *Cracking the Code of the Cannon: How Sherlock Holmes Made His Decisions*.



WHERE ARE YOU?

We'd love to hear what you've been up to! Please send us your photo and an update! Email alum@roosevelt.edu or mail:

Office of Alumni Relations
Roosevelt University
430 S. Michigan Avenue, AUD 818
Chicago, IL 60605

Please include your name, address, email, major and graduation year.

In Memoriam

Roosevelt University regrets to report the deaths of the following community members.

1940s

Marian Kukral (BA, '46) of Highland, Ind., died on Jan. 15. She received a bachelor's in Social Services.

Richard P. Curran (BC, '49; MC, '70) of Mokena, Ill., died on May 1. He was an auditor for the Internal Revenue Service.

1950s

Lester Libo ('52) of Chicago died on June 12. He was a founding member and professor emeritus of the Department of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of New Mexico and a member of the Albuquerque art and cultural community.

Donald H. Moss (BA, '53; MA, '54) of Springfield, Ill., died on April 29. He worked in several human service organizations and was honored for exemplary service to persons with disabilities by the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives, the Illinois Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

John Buswell (BA, '54) of Chicago died on Dec. 15. He received a bachelor's in Philosophy.

Donald Epstein (BC, '54) of Coral Spring, Fla., died on March 31. Dubbed the accidental artist, he sculpted a five-foot-tall grinning gator for use as a mailbox 16 years ago. It launched his second career and made him an in-demand artist.

Margit Wirth Johnson-Lacker (BS, '55) of Elgin, Ill., died on May 28. She majored in laboratory science and was on the Council of American Women.

James S. Chrysokos (BA, '56) of Elk Grove, Ill., died on Jan. 25. He was a retired colonel of the United States Air Force and a member of the Freemasons, ROA.

Harry Wing Tong (BB, '59; MC, '64) of Foster City, Calif., died on April 28. He was an entrepreneur and founder of Tong Associates, Tong Accountancy Corp. and the Up To Date CPA Review Course. Upon retiring he became an avid volunteer in the Asian-American community.

1960s

Alice K. Harper (BA, '60; MA, '63) of Chicago died on March 9. She was a pioneer in the Chicago Public Schools and was deeply involved in the Chicago Teacher's Union and was the recipient of the 1965 Excellence in Teaching award from the *Chicago Tribune*.

Francine E. Grenlie (BSBA, '61) of Chicago died on March 21. She received a bachelor's in Business Administration.

Mary E. Edwards (BA, '62) of Crown Point, Ind., died on May 18. She was an educator working for the Crown Point Community School and the Chicago Public Schools until 1995.

Donald J. Meyer (BA, '62) of Milwaukee died on Feb. 25. He received a bachelor of science in Education.

Robert Schmit (BS, '62) of Glenview, Ill., died on April 22. As founder and president of Schmit Laboratories, he led a team of 42 chemists for more than 40 years.

Jack A. Adams, PhD (BA, '63; MA, '65) of Waukegan, Ill., died on April 8. He organized efforts to fund and found the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill.

Robert E. Hall (BA, '65) of Lake Forest, Ill., died on Oct. 4.

Matilda A. Wilhelm (MA, '65) of Joliet, Ill., died on Feb. 25. She was a teacher and principal for 35 years in Elgin, Ill. and retired from Forest Park Culbertson School located in Joliet, Ill. >>

In Memoriam continued

Marian Wilson-Comer (BA, '66) of Gary, Ind., died on Jan. 9. Before retiring as professor emeritus of biology at Chicago State University, she served in many positions including dean of student services, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, assistant to the provost, chair of the Department of Biological Science and executive director of the Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Eugene A. Ebert (MA, '66) of Duluth, Minn., died on March 19. He was principal at Libertyville High School from 1963 until he retired in 1988.

Dale Duane Nelson (BA, '67) of Santa Ana, Calif., died on Feb. 19. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and after World War II, re-enlisted and served for an additional 20 years. After serving in the Navy for 23 years, he retired as a master chief petty officer.

Norbert F. Wall (BB, '67) of Chicago died on March 4. An entrepreneur, he wore many hats from real estate to being an expert witness.

1970s

Wilbon McClerkin (BGS, '70) of Chicago died on June 7. He was a musician, writer and public speaker. His music career spanned more than six decades starting when he was just a child. As a writer he was a featured columnist for the *Chicago Courier*.

Donald Toigo (BB, '70) of Chicago Heights, Ill., died on June 10. He was the owner of Toigo Painting and Decorating and the vice president of sales and marketing for Vacudyne Inc. in Chicago Heights.

William Harvey Cameron (MB, '71) of Mountain Lakes, N.J., died on April 15. He spent his career at AT&T where he and his team received a Gold Medal during the

1996 USA Centennial Olympic Games for coordinating communications. He retired after 35 years of service.

Eric Ellessen (BGS, '71) of Mount Prospect, Ill., died on April 22. He worked for the Chicago Housing Authority for 38 years.

John Cutler (BA, '72) of Curtis, Ariz., died on Jan. 27. He served 22 years in the U.S. Navy where he retired as a master chief petty officer. After retirement, he trained as a registered nurse and finished his career as a public health nurse.

Jean Halm McKenney (MAT, '72) of Wood Dale, Ill., died on April 27. She was a teacher at Glenbard East High School until she retired in 1982 as chair of the Science Department.

Charles Breckle (MA, '75) of Chicago died on June 15. He served in the U.S. Army, and was an educator for 38 years until he retired in 1995.

Enver Omer Avdich (MS, '76) of Chicago died on April 29. He was a retired microbiologist.

1980s

Louise Miller (MA, '80) of Ann Arbor, Mich., died on Feb. 7. After earning a master's of Public Administration, she became an advocate for social justice, education and the elderly.

Olga Redmond (BA, '80) of Cassopolis, Minn., died on Feb. 17. She retired from Northern Trust Company after 25 years of service.

Mary Elizabeth White (BA, '81) of Las Vegas died on May 15. She retired from the U.S. Post Office after 26 years of service.

Evelyn Mayfield Brown (MA, '84) of Chicago died on March 19. She received a master's in Public Administration and retired after providing more than 30

years of service in the U.S. Post Office.

Winne McClerkin (BSBA, '86) of Chicago died June 7. She received a bachelor's in Personnel Administration.

The Rev. Howard Nichols, Sr. (BA, '86) of Chicago died on March 22. He received a bachelor's in Sociology. He was an ordained minister and the dedicated pastor of Pleasant Gift MB Church on the south side of Chicago.

Joseph R. Kozenczak (MPA, '87) of Des Plaines, Ill., died on May 13. He was police chief of Des Plaines for 27 years and was recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police as one of the top 10 police officers for his work on the John Wayne Gacy murder case.

Jerome J. Laz (MA, '87) of Mount Prospect, Ill., died on March 1. He received a master's in Education.

1990s


Janet Jaback (BA, '97) of Elmwood Park, Ill., died on Feb. 11. She received a bachelor's in Hospitality Management.

Faculty and Staff

Milton Greenberg, vice president of Academic Affairs at Roosevelt University in the 1970s, died on Aug. 27. After serving at Roosevelt, he joined American University in Washington, D.C., where he was provost, interim president and professor of government.

Gilbert Ghez, a professor of management who served Roosevelt's Heller College of Business for over three decades, died on Sept. 15. Ghez joined Roosevelt in 1979 as associate professor of management and economics and was promoted to professor in 1982. During his tenure at Roosevelt, he was an active

participant and contributor to many services at the University and served on numerous college and university committees. He always upheld high academic standards and cared deeply about the University's academic mission. An exemplary teacher, he was dedicated to providing the best possible experiences to students inside and outside the classroom.

Albert Nagy (BA, '71; MA, '76) of Chicago died on April 26. He had a long and varied career at Roosevelt University as both a student and employee. Among positions, he was director of the Educational Technology Resource Center before retiring in 2008 with emeritus status, one of only six administrators to earn the ranking. 

In response to the Spring 2015 issue, *Roosevelt Review* received the following letter from alumna Betty Carr.

Dear Editor,

I enjoy reading the *Roosevelt Review* but the Spring 2015 edition has an error on pages 68-69. Robert and Marcy Brown are credited as the first married couple to graduate from Roosevelt together in 1950. My husband Anton G. Carr and I were the first married couple to graduate together in January 1947. You can easily verify this by my article in *Roosevelt University: Memories of the First 60 Years*, pages 16-17. Page 17 also includes a copy of a Roosevelt College publicity shot of us from the *Chicago Tribune*.

Betty Carr,
Alsip, Ill.

FALL 2015

HONOR ROLL

“From what we get,
we can make a living;
what we give,
however, makes a life.”

ARTHUR ASHE



Dear Alumni and Friends,

First and foremost, we would like to tell you how honored we are to be the students currently serving on the Roosevelt University Board of Trustees. The academic year is well underway. Our halls are filled with students, faculty, staff and gratitude. Attending Roosevelt, for many, simply would not be possible if it weren't for you.

We want to use this occasion to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed financially to Roosevelt University. Every member of our learning community is impacted through your gifts. Your generosity fuels change and broadens opportunities for deserving students more than ever before. It empowers and inspires all of us to work hard, gain new experiences and learn not only about our world, but about ourselves. We are fortunate to be reminded almost daily of the positive impact our alumni brothers and sisters continue to have on our global community. We are Roosevelt, and so is each and every one of you.

We value how Roosevelt University has fostered a tradition of student excellence and success throughout the generations, by providing opportunities that create socially conscious leaders in their professions and communities. Like so many of you, being a part of this incredibly diverse community is transforming our lives. We are learning about the challenges of our communities and together we are setting out to make them better. Through your continued kindness and generosity, you enable us to continue this important work, and for that we are deeply appreciative.

You ignite our passions. You enlighten our spirits. We are becoming agents of change. Your gifts make this possible. The students you support will never forget it.

Our future begins right now — and it starts with you!

Gratefully,



Carlita Kelly



Courtney Makowski

Your generosity fuels
change and broadens
opportunities for
deserving students
more than ever before.

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Chairman
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Chairman and CEO
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Retired Executive Vice President
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Marek A. Wierzba

Partner
Assurance & Advisory
Business Services
Ernst & Young

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Retired
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Principal
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Louis S. Kahnweiler

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Retired
The Steinfeld Consultancy LLC

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President Emeritus

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HONOR ROLL

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\$250,000 AND ABOVE

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The Estate of
Eugene W. Rueckoldt**

Mr. Jay D. Steger
Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Steinfeld
Mr. Robert P. Van Brugge
Estate of Mrs. Dorothy
M. Wright**
Mr. Bruce J. Young

\$100,000 TO \$249,999

Mr. and Mrs. James Grusecki
Mr. David D. Hiller
The Estate of Paul B. Johnson**
The Estate of Sarah M. Solomon**
Mr. Richard Wills

\$10,000 TO \$24,999

Mr. Steven H. Abbey and
Ms. Pamela J. Brick
Mr. Bruce R. Bachmann
Mrs. Susan Therese Bart
Mr. Ralph B. Block
John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum
Mr. James B. Connor
Mrs. Arlene R. Crandall
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Drew
The Estate of Jan H. Finder**
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fogel*
Mr. Robert D. Glick
The Estate of Max
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Naomi Serotoff
(BA, '67)

PAYING IT FORWARD

Naomi Serotoff has named Roosevelt University as a beneficiary in her IRA Retirement Plan. Her gift will assure her legacy and support the next generation of students.

Serotoff graduated in 1967 in the first class whose Commencement was held in the partially restored Auditorium Theatre. She remembers making a point to attend Commencement and was moved to see her diverse classmates walk across the stage and hear their family members applauding.

During World War II, Serotoff worked in a war plant while her husband was in Italy flying 50 missions. She moved to Chicago after one year at Queens College in New York City and enrolled at Roosevelt. She said that while she attended Roosevelt, she was awarded scholarships, which is why she would like her bequest to be used for scholarships.

Serotoff remembers the personal attention she received from Roosevelt faculty members who encouraged her to stretch her mind and take a variety of subjects from voice to literature to science. When she cut some biology classes, her professor sought her out and sat down with her. "You've been cutting class, what's going on," he asked her and encouraged her to attend every class. "What a nurturing place Roosevelt was for me," Serotoff said.



What will your legacy be?

Roosevelt's Fireside Circle recognizes alumni and friends who have made provisions for Roosevelt University through a planned gift. For more information on the Fireside Circle and how you can plan for your retirement and the future of your heirs as well as reduce taxes and make a difference at Roosevelt University, please contact our office.

Janice Parkin ('79)

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WALKING THE WALK

More than 840 Roosevelt students crossed the Auditorium Theatre stage to receive their diplomas in May. Congratulations to the newest members of our alumni community. **Page 48.**

