

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

# ROOSEVELT

*review*



## Mentor Magic

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS  
FIND ROLE MODELS IN CAREER  
MENTORING PROGRAM. PAGE 22



# ROOSEVELT<sup>review</sup>

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**“I want to be there  
for young people,  
and particularly  
young women who  
are looking for  
role models.”**

– PATRICIA HARRIS (BGS, '80)  
*Chair, Roosevelt Board of Trustees*  
(pictured below, center)



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UNIVERSITY**

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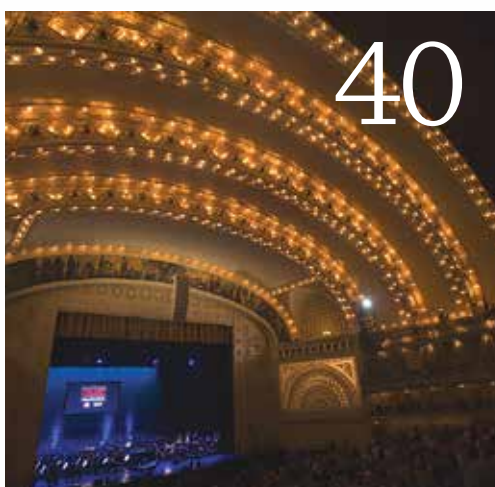
– **CHARLES “CHARLIE” GARDNER**  
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(pictured on cover, left)



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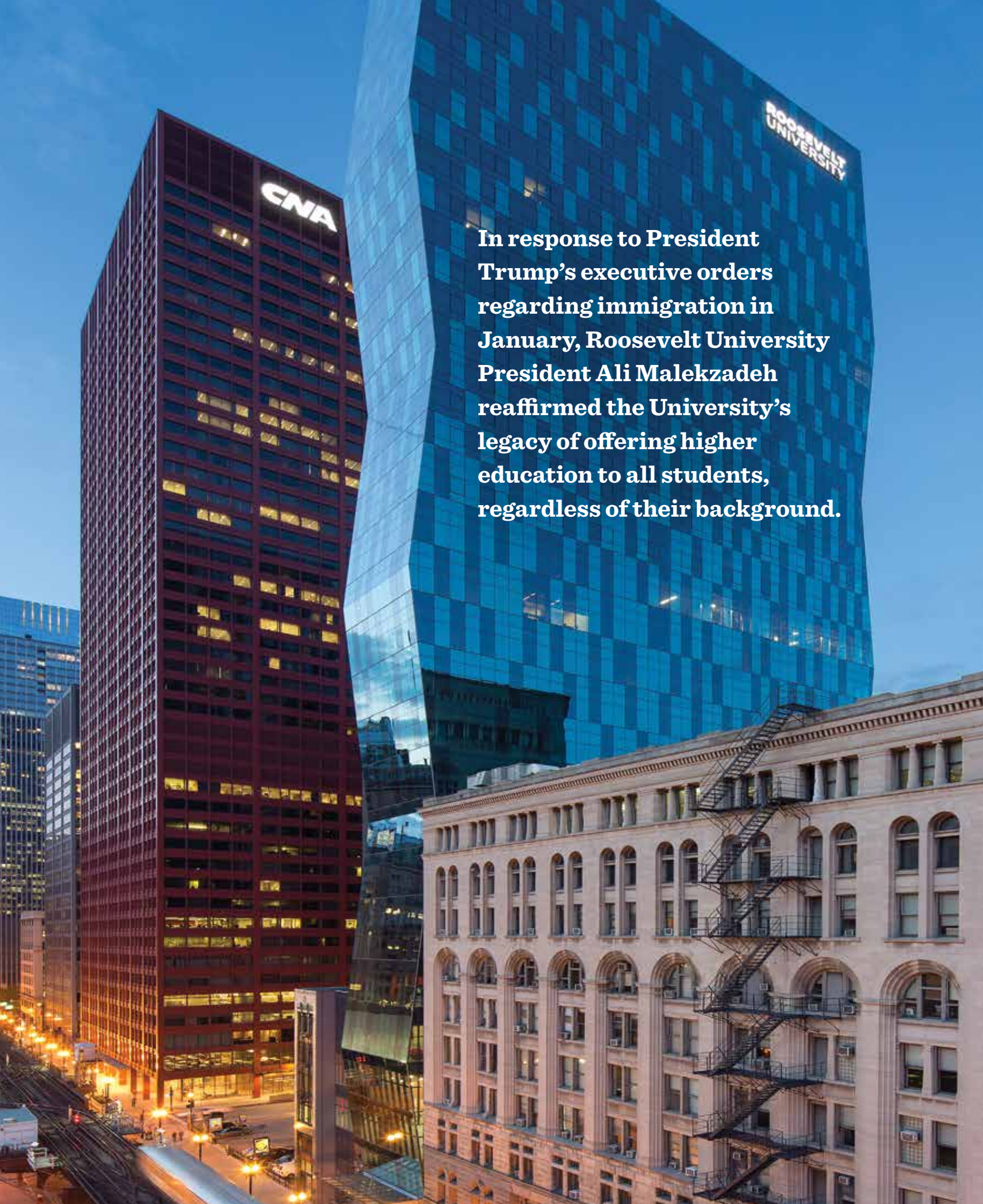
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**In response to President Trump's executive orders regarding immigration in January, Roosevelt University President Ali Malekzadeh reaffirmed the University's legacy of offering higher education to all students, regardless of their background.**



January 30, 2017



**Dear Colleagues:**

I write to let you know that Roosevelt University affirms its historic policy of non-discrimination, in light of recent executive orders and immigration issues.

Seventy-one years ago we were founded expressly to build a University open to students, faculty and staff of all national origins, ethnicities, religions, race, economic status and gender. It was a time when the majority of private universities in America restricted these groups and instead built communities that were largely white, native-born, Protestant and male. Our founders, in contrast, refused to “count” students by race, national origin or religion, and included people from many countries, including refugees. We believed then — and affirm now — that American democracy and liberty have thrived because of our diversity.

As you may know, President Trump issued an executive order in January banning for 90 days legal permanent residents and temporary visa holders from entering the U.S. if the person is from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Somalia or Yemen (later revised to exclude Iraq). This includes students who have F-1 or J-1 visas, and faculty with temporary work visas. He also called for “extreme vetting” of those entering this country and banned Syrian refugees, exempting Christians.

I am concerned that students, faculty or staff might travel outside of the United States and find themselves unable to return. Please be aware of these policies as they develop. We suggest that those who might be impacted by this executive order postpone international travel. Contact our director of international programs, Dawn Hougland ([dhougland@roosevelt.edu](mailto:dhougland@roosevelt.edu)) if you have questions.

In addition, I have assembled a committee called OASIS (Outreach, Advocacy, Social Justice, Information and Safety), chaired by sociology department chair Pamela Robert, that meets bi-weekly. Members include Amy Dexter, Sharron Evans, Dawn Hougland, Paige Jovanvic (student), Al Nunez, Karla Ortiz (student), Terry Richards and Jemima Tumewu (student). You can read about actions that the committee has taken in the article that follows.

America has had a complicated relationship with refugees and immigrants — at times restricting immigration (from Eastern Europe and Asia, for just two examples), turning away Jewish refugees from Hitler’s Germany, enslaving Africans, and interning Japanese Americans during World War II. On the other hand and at other times, this country has welcomed refugees and immigrants. It is the latter history that we emulate.

I have signed, along with the presidents of more than 600 colleges and universities, a statement on behalf of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals executive order, to support undocumented, immigrant students. Our University also supports the BRIDGE Act legislation that would allow individuals who arrived in the U.S. as children to stay for another three years without the threat of deportation, while Congress addresses immigration issues. I also want to remind you of our policies concerning immigration:

- **We welcome qualified students without regard to their immigration status. We will continue to admit students without discrimination because of national origin.**
- **We ensure the privacy of student records, including immigration status, consistent with state and federal laws.**

In 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated our University “to the enlightenment of the human spirit through the constant search for truth, and to the growth of the human spirit through knowledge, understanding and goodwill.” Her words continue to inspire. This is the legacy we uphold.

With regards,

**Ali Malekzadeh, President**

Ali R. Malekzadeh, PhD  
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## RU OASIS

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WHEN PRESIDENT TRUMP ISSUED HIS CONTROVERSIAL TRAVEL BAN IN JANUARY,  
THE ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IMMEDIATELY TOOK ACTION

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by LAURA JANOTA



**Two days after Trump's initial executive order, President Ali Malekzadeh in a letter to the community affirmed the University's historic policy of non-discrimination.**

Malekzadeh also created a new committee of Roosevelt faculty, students and administrators called OASIS (Outreach, Advocacy, Social Justice, Information and Safety).

"We are here to provide information, resources and support concerning the new federal laws and mandates affecting international, immigrant and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students and their families," said Roosevelt professor Pamela Robert, co-chair of the OASIS Committee.

*Above: Many students attend Roosevelt because of its inclusivity of all backgrounds.*

*Opposite page: An "Inclusion Has No Borders" sign, encouraged to be posted across campus.*



Since its formation, OASIS has been extremely active, introducing an “Inclusion Has No Borders” Safe Space Campaign in March that received a mention on NBC5-TV Chicago. The campaign was also featured in the online student publication *The College Fix*.

“We started the group to let students know that we’re here for them,” OASIS Committee co-chair Steve Marchi, head coach of the Roosevelt Lakers baseball team, told *The College Fix*.


As part of the new OASIS campaign, hundreds of Roosevelt community members in Chicago and Schaumburg posted “Inclusion Has No Borders” signs in their workspaces and at their desks.

“While all of Roosevelt is a safe space, the signs are a symbolic way for members of our community to show solidarity with anyone on campus who may have issues or concerns about changing federal policies on immigration and other topics impacting higher education,” said Sharron Evans, associate vice president of student affairs and dean of students.

The OASIS Committee continues to meet bi-weekly, and is currently planning for a number of informational events that could cover everything from student testimonials to a Know Your Rights forum.

Meanwhile, Malekzadeh has continued to be vocal in support of international students and immigrant rights. In March, he signed a letter to Trump in support of “Dreamers,” undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. In all, more than 560 college and university presidents signed the letter that asks Trump to continue to allow Dreamers to work and study in the U.S.

In February, Malekzadeh also joined hundreds of university presidents in signing a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly that calls on the U.S. government to “take seriously the need to safeguard our nation and also the need for the United States to remain the destination of choice for the world’s best and brightest students, faculty and scholars.”

Malekzadeh’s thoughts on Trump’s latest budget proposal and Illinois’ ongoing fiscal crisis, both of which are detrimental to higher education, are outlined in the president’s *Roosevelt Review* essay (see page 8). 



**“While all of Roosevelt is a safe space, the signs are a symbolic way for members of our community to show solidarity with anyone on campus who may have issues or concerns about changing federal policies on immigration.”**

– SHARRON EVANS  
Associate Vice President of Student Affairs  
and Dean of Students



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## President's Perspective by PRESIDENT ALI MALEKZADEH

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**Unbelievable:** The proposed federal budget that puts Pell Grants for low-income students and federal work-study programs at risk, potentially creating more barriers for first-generation students and others seeking a college education.

**Unbelievable:** The President's executive order banning citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States, which could severely impact the number of international and refugee students able to attend American colleges and universities.

Why do I choose to write the above lines? Because to me it is, in fact, unbelievable that the gains made over the past decades enabling more people — whatever their religion, gender, sexuality, race, economic status, ethnicity or citizenship — to attain their American Dream of higher education are now being challenged in 2017. It is unbelievable to me that the very values at the core of Roosevelt University's legacy are in danger.

**How do we respond?** In many ways. We have launched a new “Inclusion Has No Borders” campaign at Roosevelt to emphasize our respect for all community members and to advocate, yet again, for just and non-discriminatory policies.

In my role as president, I have reaffirmed our support for immigrant communities as a participant in the New American Economy campaign, a bi-partisan group of more than 500 mayors and business leaders who highlight the role of immigrants in our communities. And this past winter, I joined more than 600 university presidents across the nation in signing a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security opposing the executive order banning travel to the U.S. for immigrants from seven (now six) Muslim-majority countries.

I have also supported the BRIDGE Act legislation, which would allow people who arrived in the U.S. as children to stay for another three years without threat of deportation while Congress deals with immigration reform.

How can we insure adequate financial resources for our students when federal and state funding is at risk?

One way is through advocacy. We must encourage our state legislators to continue MAP grants — state funding for low-income students that they do not have to repay. For the last several semesters Roosevelt has covered the costs of these grants, which have been in hiatus because of the state budget crisis. We must also tell our members of Congress and the U.S. Senate about our opposition to the proposed federal budget and lobby them to maintain not only the financial aid needed by so many students, but also the resources afforded our nation by our cultural and scientific agencies.

Another important resource for our students comes from the generous philanthropy of our alumni and friends. You will read elsewhere in the magazine about the largest gift Roosevelt has ever received — \$25 million from the estate of Rosaline Cohn. Mrs. Cohn, a longtime supporter of Roosevelt, helped students for decades through the Jacob and Rosaline Cohn Scholarship Fund. The Cohn family’s relationship with Roosevelt began in 1945 when Jacob Cohn, a Lithuanian immigrant who built up a successful coffee and grocery business, donated \$200 to the newly established college. (That’s about \$2,700 today by comparison!)

He and his family continued to give to Roosevelt throughout the years and maintained a relationship with four of our leaders: presidents Jim Sparling, Rolf Weil, Ted Gross and Charles Middleton. The Cohns believed in Roosevelt and in our students. Rosaline Cohn said, “I am interested in people, rather than causes,” and wanted to improve the quality of life for students especially in the areas of business, public health and science.

This kind of generosity is uniquely American. There is a culture of philanthropy in our country, which focuses on higher education. We sometimes forget that many other parts of the world don’t share this charitable viewpoint, particularly when it comes to universities.

In the United States, expenses for both public and private universities are significantly higher than in the rest of the world, as a result of rapidly escalating costs, changing demographics and priorities, and reduced support from the government sector. At the same time, expectations have risen also for student security, books, health and well-being; for compliance with academic and government regulations; competitive salaries for faculty and staff; and for such amenities as residence halls and fitness centers.

And yes, tuition has risen. Roosevelt’s undergraduate tuition in 2015-16 was \$27,779, which was below the state average for private universities. (The tuition scale that year topped out with the University of Chicago at \$49,026.) But most students at Roosevelt can’t and don’t pay the full amount. Like many universities, we commonly discount tuition costs with generous scholarships that are keyed to high school achievement and financial need.

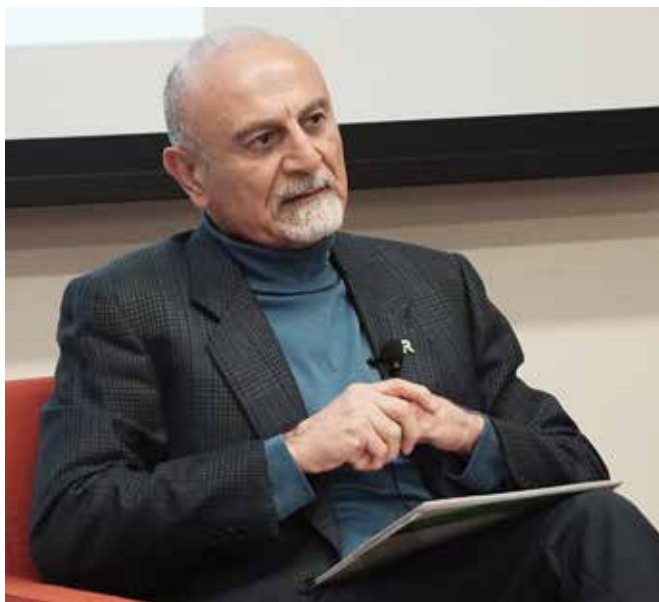
“Because to me it is, in fact, **unbelievable** that the gains made over the past decades enabling more people — whatever their religion, gender, sexuality, race, economic status, ethnicity or citizenship — to attain their American Dream of higher education are now being challenged in 2017. It is **unbelievable** to me that the very values at the core of Roosevelt University’s legacy are in danger.”

— ALI MALEKZADEH  
President, Roosevelt University



Of course, many students still have to secure loans, get government grants, and work at outside employment during their schooling. This is at a time when the level of debt assumed for an American college education is at a record high. The U.S. now holds an astonishing \$1.2 trillion in collective student loan debt, and in Illinois some 64 percent of 2012 graduates owe \$28,000 on average.

Philanthropy makes higher education in America possible for a large number of students. It is thanks to you, our alumni and donors, that Roosevelt has a growing endowment, scholarships, faculty development funds, centers and institutes — and so many other resources, which support learning, faculty development and research, and community engagement. Your financial contributions transform lives every day. Like the gifts of Rosaline and Jacob Cohn, your contributions keep alive Roosevelt's legacy of social justice, academic excellence and student success.




There are additional ways that our alumni, donors and friends can make a difference. You can get involved! We have advisory boards established or under development in every college. As you will read on page 22, we have a new Career Mentoring Program that has quickly grown to more than 60 volunteers from some 25 organizations advising individual students.

I have a proposal for a way to not only help the University but also to have fun — join us as we develop our Professor for a Day initiative! We invite you to visit or help teach a class in your area of expertise — be it accounting, law, medicine, hospitality, education or another field. I think this activity will not only enrich the knowledge of our students and professors, but donors and alumni will learn just as much from the other side of the desk. Details to come!

Are you interested in any of these ideas? Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 341-2115 for more information on ways to get involved. On behalf of our current and future students, I thank you.

This “giving back” of funds, time and expertise is related to the theme in this essay — the broadening of pathways to the American Dream. We will continue to affirm our belief in a just University and a just nation.

Our first American Dream Conference last September was a great success with more than 1,000 registrants and some wonderful discussions. **Hold the week of Sept. 11, 2017** and join us for our second conference that will bring together our community with discussions critical for our future. So far, our schedule includes Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Judge Ann Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit; political analysts David Axelrod and Bill Kristol; and many more! Updates will be available at [americandreamconference.com](http://americandreamconference.com).

If you have questions, suggestions or comments please don't hesitate to write me: [amalekzadeh@roosevelt.edu](mailto:amalekzadeh@roosevelt.edu). These are indeed challenging times, but we are not passive bystanders. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “We make our own history.” 

“This ‘giving back’ of funds, time and expertise is related to the theme in this essay — the broadening of pathways to the American Dream. We will continue to affirm our belief in a just University and a just nation.”

— ALI MALEKZADEH  
President, Roosevelt University

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## Are you interested in any of these ideas?

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 341-2115 for more information on ways to get involved.

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## Roosevelt Student Among Obama Panel Members

Roosevelt University senior Ramuel Figueroa received an early graduation gift in April when he took part in a “Conversation on Civic Engagement” at the University of Chicago with former President Barack Obama.

The panel — which included Figueroa’s observations about the plight of immigrants he had interviewed for a Roosevelt research project — was covered by multiple national outlets, and marked Obama’s first public appearance since leaving the White House.

The sociology student called his April 24 experience “surreal” and “humbling,” and was one of six promising young leaders assembled to discuss Obama’s plan to “prepare the next generation of leadership to take up the baton and to take their own crack at changing the world.”

It was a special opportunity for Figueroa, a military veteran, just days before his graduation on May 5.

“I’m grateful and feel very lucky to have been chosen for this panel discussion,” said the Roosevelt honors student, who first shared his story in the *Roosevelt Review* last fall.

Figueroa credited his ability to adapt to non-military life and University coursework demands to college preparation training he received from Veterans Upward Bound at Roosevelt.

A student researcher with Roosevelt’s Policy Research Collaborative (PRC), Figueroa also discussed the difficulties he has faced since the presidential election in getting Chicago day laborers — many of whom are immigrants — to open up about their situations.

“I went to the street corners with a community organizer from Latino Union of Chicago,” Figueroa said. “We talked with these workers before and after the election, and it was getting frustrating.”

Obama suggested the Roosevelt student “put away the clipboard” and focus on continuing “to build trust in the community.”

“It was an incredible experience. [Obama] told me what it was like to work with different people during his community organizing days on Chicago’s South Side,” Figueroa said. “I shared my concerns that these are going to be very trying times for people from marginalized areas.”



Figueroa presented the findings from his thesis, “Wage Thefts and Occurrences of Work Injuries among Day Laborers,” at Honors Research Day, a symposium for the Roosevelt community held on April 28.

Figueroa was also lead student researcher for an ongoing study on the same topic, conducted by PRC in collaboration with Latino Union of Chicago.

Julie Hilvers, director of the PRC, was among a group of more than 20 Roosevelt students, faculty members and administrators in attendance at the University of Chicago event, which drew approximately 300 people.

“Ramuel and all of the young people on stage with Obama have been doing incredible work that has the potential to create positive change in our schools and communities, our city and beyond,” Hilvers said. “Our research project never would have happened without Ramuel, and I am thrilled he had this incredible opportunity and is getting the credit he deserves for the work.”

Roosevelt senior Brittany Austin, vice president of the Black Student Union, said the chance to see Obama was “life-changing” and that it was a proud day for herself and others at Roosevelt.

“Ramuel represented the University so well,” Austin said. “I really look forward to seeing where he goes from here with his research.”

Several law schools have accepted Figueroa, and he will spend the coming months exploring additional opportunities across the country.

“This experience taught me how important it is to remain politically engaged, even when the system seems broken and you just want to run away,” Figueroa said. “You have to be willing to work with other people — even if there’s a disagreement, it doesn’t mean we can’t work together.”

**“YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE — EVEN IF THERE’S A DISAGREEMENT, IT DOESN’T MEAN WE CAN’T WORK TOGETHER.”**

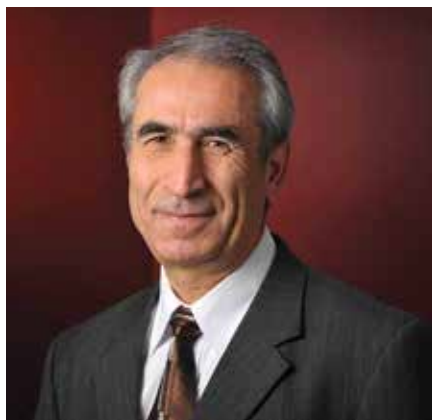
— RAMUEL FIGUEROA (BA, '17)

*Above: Roosevelt student Ramuel Figueroa (second from left) talks community activism with former President Barack Obama.*



## Roosevelt Hires New College of Business Dean

Asghar Sabbaghi was selected to serve as dean of the Heller College of Business starting July 1, 2017. Sabbaghi, who was chosen from a talented and distinguished pool of candidates, most recently served as dean of the Graham School of Management (GSM) at Saint Xavier University since July 2014.



**"I AM IMPRESSED BY THE STRONG COMMITMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP TO EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH AT THE HELLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS."**

- ASGHAR SABBAGHI

*Incoming Dean of the Heller College of Business*

Prior to that, he was a member of the leadership team of the Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics at Indiana University South Bend for 18 years.

"I am impressed by the strong commitment of the University leadership to excellence in higher education and I am excited about the enormous opportunity for growth and excellence in management education at the Heller College of Business," Sabbaghi said.

As GSM dean, Sabbaghi took numerous strategic initiatives in academic programming/excellence, community partnerships, enrollment management and faculty/staff development. Sabbaghi also created a highly successful chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma at GSM and helped the School to prepare for re-accreditation

by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). He has built up numerous partnerships with the business community in metropolitan Chicago, and has established a strong, vibrant connection between the University alumni and current students.

"Roosevelt's students will particularly benefit from Dr. Sabbaghi's remarkable successes in enhancing both the academic and professional development of students through his well-developed connections with the business community of Chicago," said Dr. Lois Becker, Roosevelt provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

In working with faculty, he created a Center for Experiential Education (CEE) that has integrated internships, field projects, and service learning activities into the business curriculum. The Center has developed partnerships with the Chicago business community and cultivated internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in various areas of business such as The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and more.

In addition to a demonstrated record as an effective academic leader, Sabbaghi is also an accomplished and prolific scholar. His areas of expertise include study of the economics of water resource management, green information technology and sustainability, and supply chain intelligence. He is the co-author of the book *Economics of Water Resources: From Regulation to Privatization*, which was recently translated into Chinese, as well as the author or co-author of numerous scholarly articles published in journals such as *Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce*, *International Business and Economics Research Journal*, *Issues in Information Systems*, and the *International Journal of Modeling and Simulation*.

Sabbaghi holds a PhD in economics from Indiana University Bloomington. He also holds master's and bachelor's degrees — both in economics and statistics — from Tehran University in Iran. Additionally, he holds post-doctoral certificates from the Management Development Program at Harvard University, the Advanced MIS Faculty Development Institute at the Kelly School of Business at Indiana University Bloomington, and the MIS Faculty Development Institute at the University of Minnesota. **R**

*Above:  
Asghar Sabbaghi*

*Opposite page, top  
(from left): Yufan Zhang,  
Titilayo Ayangade, John  
Heffernan, Artem Kolesov.*



## Roosevelt University Gets First In-House String Quartet

**For the first time ever, Roosevelt University has its own in-house student string quartet. Named Yas Quartet, it comprises four advanced-level string musicians who perform widely while learning the ropes of becoming a professional ensemble.**

Inspired by a viral Lady Gaga video in which fans repeatedly scream “Yas!” as a favorable response to the pop star’s appearance, the uniquely named ensemble is the first emerging artist/student string quartet to be headquartered at Roosevelt’s Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA).

“We wanted a program that could be an incubator for developing a nascent string quartet into a viable professional ensemble,” said Linda Berna, associate dean of CCPA’s Music Conservatory. “We see Yas Quartet as having the talent and potential to become a successful endeavor.”

The ensemble’s members, who met and bonded earlier this academic year at CCPA, are John Heffernan, violin; Artem Kolesov, violin; Yufan Zhang, viola; and Titilayo Ayangade, cello.


The four are currently studying for post-graduate chamber performance diplomas at Roosevelt, where they receive coaching in performance and community engagement, auditioning and participating in competitions, and in branding and developing a successful business plan/model for the new ensemble.

“To be selected for this program, and to have Roosevelt as our home base has been transformational,” Heffernan said. “Our goal is to take the quartet beyond Roosevelt University, engage with the larger community and become widely known in the classical music world.”

“We see ourselves as a positive version of the meme ‘Yas!’ and we’d love to one day see people all over screaming our name,” Ayangade added.

For Yas Quartet, the Roosevelt experience has resulted in Chicago area and out-of-state performances, a third-place finish in the Schoenfeld International String Competition in China, quarter-finalist standing in the acclaimed Fischhoff National Chamber Music competition, community engagement with the International Music Foundation and the Chicago Public Schools, and participation in the Colorado College Summer Music Festival’s new quartet program.

“Yas has a beautiful quartet voice that has been in evidence since it began and has since been steadily developing,” said Roosevelt artist faculty member Stefan Hersh, chief coach of the ensemble whose members include three men — an American, Russian and Chinese national — as well as an African American woman.

“They are engaging and likable as individuals, which is essential for success in the quartet world,” said Hersh, who called the group “a diverse collective in full cooperation” and a “model for the unifying possibilities of music and culture.” 

## Financial Aid Director is New President of Illinois Association

**Michelle Stipp, director of financial aid at Roosevelt University, is the new president of the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA). She began a one-year term as president in April.**

A 20-year financial aid professional, Stipp presided over the merging of key student account functions and financial

aid services at Roosevelt, where the focus is on providing the best hands-on service to students.

A resident of Bartlett, Illinois, Stipp was elected by her colleagues to lead the 445-member ILASFAA. Advocating for the ethical administration of student aid, training and advocacy, the association represents financial aid administrators from public and private higher education institutions, community colleges, for-profit institutions, private loan lenders, guarantee agencies and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

**“THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES IN STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND I LOOK FORWARD TO LEADING OUR STATE’S FINANCIAL AID PROFESSIONALS AS WE ADVOCATE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.”**

**- MICHELLE STIPP**  
*Director of Financial Aid*

“These are challenging times in student financial aid and I look forward to leading our state’s financial aid professionals as we advocate for our students and families,” Stipp said.

At a time when students are seeking more financial support and institutional resources are being stretched, Stipp believes it is more important than ever for financial aid administrators to be creative and strategic in their approach to the financial aid process. ILASFAA provides opportunities for financial aid professionals to collaborate and share ideas as well as best practices to meet this challenge.

“I am humbled and honored to serve as president of our state association and look forward to the coming year,” she said.

Stipp also serves on the board of the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, representing professionals in Illinois for the nine-state regional association. 



*Above: Michelle Stipp, Roosevelt director of financial aid.*



## Psychology Student Receives Roosevelt Social Justice Award

**There are times in life when getting involved in one's community and driving change for the greater good become imperative.**

That moment came for 32-year-old Roosevelt University student Jessica "Jessy" Santini on March 6, 2015 when her younger brother, Mikey Santini, also a Roosevelt student, died of a heroin overdose at 26.

**"I'M HUMBLLED TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR MY WORK. I TRY TO CARRY OUT SOCIAL JUSTICE EVERY DAY IN MY LIFE, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE CALLED OUT FOR IT. I JUST FOLLOW MY HEART."**

**- JESSICA SANTINI (BA, '17)**

*Winner, 2017 Matthew Freeman Social Justice Award*

"I knew I had to try to help people understand what's involved with addiction," said Santini, winner of Roosevelt's 2017 Matthew Freeman Social Justice Award. "I couldn't let my brother die in vain."

A senior psychology student at Roosevelt's Schaumburg Campus,


Santini has worked tirelessly as a volunteer since her brother's death, sharing her story of loss with high school students and families in the Northwest suburbs.

Santini is currently studying Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), learning principles aimed at social behavior change, which she has been using to treat children who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

"This is a young woman who is putting her Roosevelt University education into action, and creating change in the world," said Heather Dalmage, director of Roosevelt's Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation. "She is so deserving of this award, which annually recognizes a Roosevelt student for living the mission of the University through her social justice work."

As a volunteer with the Palatine, Illinois-based not-for-profit group Live4Lali, Santini regularly speaks to young people and their families about the realities of addiction, which in her brother's case included multiple overdoses and attempts at rehabilitation.

Santini also works part-time as an ABA therapist and registered behavior technician for Impacting Autism of Inverness, Illinois. She graduated from Roosevelt in May.

"I'm humbled to be recognized for my work," Santini said. "I try to carry out social justice every day in my life, but I never expected to be called out for it. I just follow my heart." 



*Right: Jessica Santini (right) with President Ali Malekzadeh and Professor Heather Dalmage.*

# Roosevelt's New Groove: University Moog synthesizer restored

**A rare and valuable Moog synthesizer, an electronic musical instrument that revolutionized popular music in the mid-1960s, is making a comeback at Roosevelt University.**

Fifty years after Roosevelt's Chicago Musical College — now Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) — purchased the original 1967 instrument that predates digital technology, a Roosevelt professor sees benefit in her music composition students gaining a working knowledge of the Moog and its unique way of interacting with musicians and generating sound.

"We were going to sell it, but I thought 'Why not use it?'" said Kyong Mee Choi, associate professor of music composition, who discovered the vintage analog synthesizer in an Auditorium Building storage room in 2006.

Choi was convinced that an understanding of the synthesizer's unique and peculiar feature of never responding in exactly the same way to a musician's input could inform students' work, particularly as they conceptualize their composing for the more simplistic, less nuanced digital sound. The composition professor decided to look for an electronics technician, finally finding Mike Borish in 2012.

"I knew when I first saw this Moog that it was something special," Borish said of the synthesizer, one of the first built by electronic music pioneer Robert Moog.

A prototype for models that would follow, Roosevelt's Moog was one of the first to pave the way for creation, manipulation and emulation of almost any kind of instrument and sound, including strings, winds, brass, percussion, chorus and more.

Think "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles; "Reflections" by Diana Ross and the Supremes; most anything by Emerson, Lake and Palmer and Tangerine Dream; music by producer



Brian Eno, including Talking Heads, Roxy Music and U2; Pete Townshend of The Who; and the 1968 Grammy Award-winning "Switched-On Bach," which

reinvented the classical composer's music using the synthesizer.

Borish spent four years replacing components, cleaning dust and grime from filters with thousands of Q-tips, calibrating the system to its keyboard and carefully studying the machine's history.

His review of early Moog model numbers showed Roosevelt made its purchase immediately after Barry Gordy of Motown fame, and shortly before Mick Jagger, Micky Dolenz of The Monkees and The Byrds bought models.

"This equipment set the standard for today's modern electronic music," Borish told Choi's students during a recent class demonstration. "It was an absolutely groundbreaking technology when Roosevelt first bought it. This Moog probably belongs in a museum."

Details about its purchase are unclear. However, an article about its restoration in the online electronic music publication, Reverb, said: "It's not all that unusual that this original Moog modular system lived at a university. When they were made in the 1960s, the groundbreaking machines took up an entire room and cost the equivalent of a small house in today's money."

**"IT'S A CHANCE FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN A DIFFERENT COMPOSITION METHOD, WHICH I BELIEVE WILL MAKE THEM STRONGER COMPOSERS."**

**- KYONG MEE CHOI**

*Associate Professor of Music Composition*


counters and synthesizers, which students frequently worked on late into the evening.

According to Malone, the Moog was used for composing as well as for performances at venues such as Ganz Hall and the University of Chicago.

By the time Malone left Roosevelt, the Moog started to take a backseat to newer digital sound equipment. Still, Choi believes there is value in becoming familiar with the system.

"It's a chance for students to learn a different composition method, which I believe will make them stronger composers," Choi said.

The possibility intrigues Cassandra Kaczor, 25, a graduate music composition major and art music composer, who plans to spend time learning the Moog's many nuances after she completes her thesis.

"Once composition students outside Roosevelt hear about this," Kaczor said, "I'm sure some of them will want to come to CCPA to use the Moog." 



*Above, top to bottom:  
Roosevelt's rare Moog  
synthesizer; music  
composition professor  
Kyong Mee Choi.*





## Final Movement: Mark Crayton sings famous solo for last time with CCPA Orchestra

Vivid 2017 featured not only the talented musicians and singers of the Music Conservatory at Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA), but also the gorgeous voice of CCPA voice professor Mark Crayton.

The soloist moved all who attended CCPA's annual fundraiser held on March 30 when he performed the second

movement of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, a piece he is known for and a role he said goodbye to in the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University.

"Mark wanted to do the piece one last

time with an orchestra and all of us at CCPA were excited to be able to engage our students, faculty, staff and the entire Chicago arts community," said Cheryl Frazes Hill, director of choral activities at Roosevelt.

Frazes Hill conducted more than 100 singers from CCPA's Conservatory Choirs

and the Jones College Preparatory High School Choir and approximately 100 musicians from the CCPA Orchestra for Bernstein's choral work, featuring the well-known solo by Crayton.

"We prepared for the concert for almost a year. It was a showcase that included most of our students, many who are in orchestra and many who are in choir, on stage together," said Emanuele Andrizzi, CCPA Orchestra conductor, which also performed Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, Op. 35.

Based on the *1,001 Nights* saga, the orchestral work is a favorite of classical music lovers, and is demanding and difficult for musicians in part because of its unusual orchestration and many instrumental solos.

"We have grown so much as an orchestra, and I thought it would be a great time for us to perform something like this," Andrizzi said.

Crayton, 58, moved the audience with his signature solo that he began performing at nine years of age, once

with Bernstein's personal coaching and many times with his father in the audience.

Over nearly 50 years, Crayton performed the piece 181 times, including for the Queen of the Netherlands in Amsterdam, as well as at Clowes Memorial Hall in Indianapolis with Bernstein in the audience in 1976.

"It's getting harder to sing the piece now that I'm older," Crayton said. However, that is not the only reason he decided to stop performing the solo. "I'm much more focused now on training the next generation of countertenors and I want to be able to spend my time passing along what I know to my students."

Crayton sang in tribute to his father, who died in 2014 and last attended one of his son's performances of the Bernstein piece in 2012.

"Every time I sang it in a big place like the Auditorium [Theatre], my father was there," Crayton said. "I sang to him, giving thanks for his support and for providing me with opportunities to grow in my career." **R**



**"I'M MUCH MORE FOCUSED NOW ON TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COUNTERTENORS AND I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SPEND MY TIME PASSING ALONG WHAT I KNOW TO MY STUDENTS."**

- MARK CRAYTON  
CCPA Voice Professor

*Above, top to bottom:  
CCPA students perform  
during Vivid 2017 at the  
Auditorium Theatre;  
soloist and professor  
Mark Crayton*

# Hospitality Professor Named Leader of the Year by Marriott

**Carol Brown, associate professor and chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at Roosevelt University, is the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities' 2017 Leader of the Year.**

Marriott will present Brown with one of the foundation's highest national honors in June. She created a course at Roosevelt that teaches students how to plan and run an annual fundraising event for the benefit of the foundation's not-for-profit Bridges from School to Work program in Chicago.

"As social justice is at the heart of Roosevelt's mission, my goal has been to encourage empathy for marginalized populations by immersing students in civic stewardship," said Brown, who has taught at Roosevelt for 12 years.


"Service learning is an incredibly effective pedagogical tool," she said. "The mission of the Marriott Foundation's Bridges program also aligns perfectly with Roosevelt."

Approximately 320 Roosevelt students have taken Hospitality Management 311, a leadership and organizational course that has raised more than \$100,000 over 11 years for the Bridges program, which helps prepare Chicago high school graduates with disabilities for competitive jobs.

"This is a course that has transformed my students, giving them self-confidence and empathy," said Brown, who introduced the course in 2006 after learning of the potential for empowerment and change that a course teaching theory in the classroom and experience in the field can offer.

Brown will receive the foundation's Leader of the Year award at the Marriott Foundation's Bridges gala in Washington, D.C. on June 8. She is only

the second person ever selected for the national honor.

"The Leader of the Year award is meant for someone who sets himself or herself apart, taking our organization to a higher level," said Tad Asbury, vice president and executive director of the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities. "Carol is someone special who has made contributions far and beyond what we expected, elevating our work as a foundation to new heights." 



**"AS SOCIAL JUSTICE IS AT THE HEART OF ROOSEVELT'S MISSION, MY GOAL HAS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE EMPATHY FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS BY IMMERSING STUDENTS IN CIVIC STEWARDSHIP."**

**- CAROL BROWN**

*Associate Professor and Chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program*

## Roosevelt Ranks High with Online Graduate Programs

**The 2017 U.S. News & World Report — Best Colleges ranking has selected Roosevelt University's online education master's programs as some of the top online graduate programs in the Midwest.**

The trusted news source publishes a variety of lists with categories including the top national universities, highest enrollment of transfer students and highest number of merit aid recipients.


Roosevelt's College of Education marked an increase in the ranking for Best



*Online Graduate Education Programs.*

Tom Phillion, dean of education, credits this year's rise to an adjustment in tuition pricing and an expansion of online program offerings.

According to Phillion, newly added online MA programs such as Second Language Special Education, Dual Language Teacher Leadership, and Training and Development are "the right blend of content, instructional innovation and accessibility."

"I think we are right where we want to be, offering more value than our cheapest competitors, but more affordability and convenience than our expensive competitors," Phillion said. "Beyond helping students earn one or more endorsements, we also connect them to valuable content, such as balanced literacy instruction and different frameworks for teacher evaluation, thereby enhancing their ability to impact student learning and the achievement of their own career goals." 

**"BEYOND HELPING STUDENTS EARN ONE OR MORE ENDORSEMENTS, WE ALSO CONNECT THEM TO VALUABLE CONTENT ... THEREBY ENHANCING THEIR ABILITY TO IMPACT STUDENT LEARNING AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR OWN CAREER GOALS."**

**- TOM PHILLION**

*Dean of the College of Education*

*Above, left to right:  
Carol Brown, chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program;  
Roosevelt student works in the library.*



## The Shapes of Sound: How Roosevelt student Neal Peterson sees math through music

Neal Peterson is a professional percussionist, session musician for TV advertising jingles and host of a popular weekly jazz radio show in Chicago. Currently, he is studying at Roosevelt to become a math teacher. He also happens to be almost completely blind.



**"HE ALWAYS FOUND A WAY TO RELATE GEOMETRY TO SOUND AND MUSIC. HE WILL HAVE CHALLENGES, BUT HE HAS AN ENGAGING APPROACH AND THE PERSONALITY IT TAKES TO TEACH."**

- STEVE COHEN

*Associate Professor of Mathematics*

"I used to think it would be difficult for a visually impaired student to accomplish so much," said Clay Horath, a staff member in Roosevelt's Academic Success Center, who tutors Peterson in math. "Working with Neal has changed my mind."

Known for his engaging personality, his guide dog named Greg, and classroom presentations that mix music with math, the part-time student has not always been visually impaired.

At 12, he took up drums at the behest of a school band coach who already had too many trumpeters, and got his first break at 13 when a friend asked him to join his band

performing at Chicago's Baby Doll Polka Club for Channel 44 TV. Though he liked music, Peterson enrolled at Northern Illinois University (NIU) after high school to play soccer.

That dream shattered at 19 when Peterson suffered a blow to the head in a car crash, after which doctors implanted a neural shunt to relieve pressure on his brain. Obtaining a bachelor's in literature from NIU,

Peterson turned his focus to music as a student at the Bloom School of Jazz and began substitute teaching at his grade-school alma mater.

"I love to teach. It's always been my passion," said Peterson, who lives for that moment when the light bulb goes on, so to speak, and the student he is teaching "gets it."

In 1999, the shunt in Peterson's head malfunctioned, causing the 33-year old to lose 80 percent of his sight, including all of his peripheral vision. Doctors performed emergency surgery, replacing the shunt and saving his life.

Unable to walk, talk or even swallow, his recovery took years. Peterson had to relearn how to play instruments, including drums, congas, marimbas and xylophone. His therapy included percussion courses at Roosevelt's Chicago Musical College (now Chicago College of Performing Arts) and weekly performances with alternates and retirees from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Through it all, he still wanted to teach. In 2003, he obtained a master's in education from Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

Invited to perform with the San Francisco Ballet, the Staatsballet Berlin and brought on as host of the Joe Cool Jazz Show on 88.3 FM, Peterson has been a successful musician, but he couldn't find a job teaching English.

A job coach advised him to try the math field, which needed teachers. He enrolled at Roosevelt in 2014 and is now halfway through coursework preparing him to teach sixth–12th graders.

For a recent geometry class presentation, Peterson wrote a composition using a prime-number arrangement.

"He always found a way to relate geometry to sound and music," said Steve Cohen, associate professor of mathematics. "He will have challenges, but he has an engaging approach and the personality it takes to teach."

In fact, Peterson hears math formulas he is learning at Roosevelt as music — and he believes there are others who learn in similar fashion.

"I've done a lot of tutoring with autistic children. Music can be a fundamental way for them to learn," Peterson said. "It inspires and motivates, and I believe can be a pathway for learning math." **R**

*Above: Neal Peterson with his guide dog, Greg.*



## Inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable

On April 18, Roosevelt hosted approximately 50 people — including corporate executives representing 25 Chicago businesses — for its inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable discussion.

Roosevelt Board of Trustees Chair Pat Harris opened the panel discussion, which featured President Ali Malekzadeh; Gloria Castillo, president and CEO of Chicago United; and Doug Harris, CEO of the Kaleidoscope Group. Roosevelt professors facilitated table discussions and participants proposed frameworks for future diversity and inclusion training for the business community. [R](#)



*Above, clockwise from top: Attendees at inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable; Doug Harris, The Kaleidoscope Group; Vilma Chan, PricewaterhouseCoopers; Gloria Castillo, Chicago United; Pat Harris, Roosevelt University Board of Trustees Chair. Upper right: Lily Rose*



## Remember Lily Rose? Support the Next Generation of Roosevelt Students

Did you have a scholarship at Roosevelt University? Chances are that former Roosevelt University Director of Admission Lily Rose was instrumental in awarding that scholarship to you.

Now, RU alumni are helping current students afford college through the new Lily Rose Scholarship Fund. We have a matching gift challenge from Nancy Newman, a 1970s Chicago Musical College alumna, who knows Rose and wants to honor her as a way of saying thank you. Please join Newman with your support.

Rose was among the first students at Roosevelt in the 1940s. Her family narrowly escaped the Nazi advance in Germany and Holland. She arrived in Chicago as a teenager and was thrilled to find an institution of higher education committed to equal access. She began working at Roosevelt in 1961, climbing the career ladder to become director of admission, a position she held until 1988.

Roosevelt University remains committed to providing access to higher education for all people.

If you benefited from a Roosevelt University scholarship, please return the gift to our students who need your help today.

Please give online at [giving.roosevelt.edu/LilyRose](https://giving.roosevelt.edu/LilyRose) [R](#)





## CCPA Emerging Artist Winner to Record Solo CD

**When Pablo Suaste Cherizola left Mexico to study piano at Roosevelt University in 2014, he never envisioned becoming one of the University's leading instrumentalists, or recording his first CD by age 23.**

**"WE ARE PROUD TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST MUSIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION TO OFFER OUR STUDENT MUSICIANS THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE, PERFORM WIDELY AND RECORD."**

**- HENRY FOGEL**

*Dean of Chicago College of Performing Arts*

The inaugural winner of Roosevelt's Aeolian Classics Emerging Artist Award, Suaste Cherizola exceeded his own expectations recently when he entered — and won — his first contest in the United States, which earned him the right to give recitals this spring all over the Chicago area and to record his own CD.

Performing a grueling program of classical music by Franz Schubert, Franz

Liszt, Ludwig van Beethoven and many others, Suaste Cherizola won top honors in January in the contest that matched him against eight other Roosevelt student instrumentalists enrolled in the Music Conservatory at Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA).

"We are proud to be one of the first music programs in the nation to offer our student musicians this unique opportunity to compete, perform widely and record," said Henry Fogel, dean of CCPA, which is sponsoring the new project.

The Aeolian Classics CD label and contest, which identify and reward artists whose performances deserve recording and dissemination based on merit rather than profit potential, are the brainchild of international concert pianist Adam Neiman, assistant professor of piano at CCPA.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to make and market classical CDs, and I wanted to be a part of the solution, so I created a label for artists who are truly deserving of recognition," Neiman said.

Suaste Cherizola is only the third artist in the U.S. to record on Neiman's Aeolian Classics label. He is the son of Jesus Suaste, one of Mexico's most beloved opera singers. According to Neiman, Suaste Cherizola will begin recording a solo CD for release by Aeolian Classics before year's end. **R**

*Above: Pablo Suaste Cherizola playing piano in Roosevelt's Ganz Hall.*

## Journalism Student Selected as National Newspaper Fellow

**A 23-year-old journalism major who made his mark covering the Flint, Michigan water crisis with Roosevelt University classmates was among seven people chosen for a prestigious newspaper fellowship program held in Washington, D.C.**

Peter Rubinstein, who graduated in May, reported on the nation's court system as a fellow for the National Newspaper Association Foundation (NNAF) on March 15-17. He was the only fellow representing Illinois.

"I didn't really know I wanted to do journalism until I took some courses at Roosevelt," said Rubinstein, who came to Roosevelt in 2014 as a transfer student from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

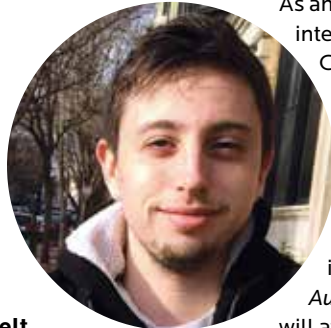
**"I OWE A LOT TO ROOSEVELT AND ITS REPORTING PROGRAM."**

- PETER RUBINSTEIN (BA, '17)

Rubinstein was among eight Roosevelt students who accompanied journalism professor John Fountain in 2016 to Flint. Their group reporting included Rubinstein's story on the city's Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church serving as a beacon of hope and support for distressed residents.

"Peter is wise beyond his years. I have rarely in my 14 years teaching met a student with as much potential and passion for journalism," said Fountain, who believes the national newspaper fellow has a bright future.

Rubinstein toured the Capitol, met with a U.S. senator and discussed the current political climate in Washington, D.C., particularly relating to independence of the nation's courts under changing policies of the Trump administration.



"I owe a lot to Roosevelt and its reporting program," said Rubinstein, who has been working as a writer and editor for an online, international electronic music journal.

As an NNAF fellow, Rubinstein interviewed Muslims in the Chicago community and wrote a story related to the constitutionality of the travel ban imposed by the Trump administration. The NNAF recently published the article in its magazine, *Publisher's Auxiliary*. Rubinstein will attend Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, specializing in social justice and investigative reporting. 

"I had only seen the show on TV before, and it was great to be there in person," said sophomore Dorian Meizhan, public affairs and community outreach director of Roosevelt's Student Government Association.

"It was a great way to promote the University, and besides the show itself, we got to see the crew and the cameras," he said.

**"IT WAS FUN AND DIFFERENT. I'D NEVER BEEN ON A TV SET BEFORE, AND IT WAS QUITE AN EXPERIENCE."**

- KATARZYNA KOZIARA (BS, '17)

WCL's special guest was fashion designer Donna Karan. Chicago radio talk show host Roe Conn cooked a


pasta dish from scratch in WCL's set kitchen. Warner and Chiaverini posed for pictures with Roosevelt students.

"It was fun and different. I'd never been on a TV set before,

and it was quite an experience," said Roosevelt senior Katarzyna Koziara, an actuarial science major and a Roosevelt resident assistant.

Roosevelt alumna Elizabeth "Lizzie" Elie was one of many in the audience who posted photos of the experience on social media.

"I was so honored to be able to attend the show with my alma mater," said Elie, a 2015 integrated marketing communications graduate.

Elie runs a business as a motivational speaker and rap singer with a positive message, and handed out her latest CD during the show. "Maybe this will lead to something big for me in the future," she said. 



## Windy City LIVE Welcomes Roosevelt University Group

**Twenty Roosevelt community members attended a live taping of ABC 7 Chicago's popular talk show, Windy City LIVE (WCL) on April 5.**

Wearing colorful black T-shirts with Roosevelt's signature "R" logo, students received a warm welcome from WCL co-hosts Val Warner and Ryan Chiaverini, who gave a shout-out to Roosevelt at the start of the show.



*Above, top to bottom: Journalism graduate Peter Rubinstein (BA, '17); members of the Roosevelt community gather before attending a taping of Windy City LIVE.*





*Above: James Davis (BBA, '17;  
EMSHM, '18).*

# The Business of Caring

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STUDENTS FIND ROLE MODELS IN CAREER MENTORING PROGRAM

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by LAURA JANOTA



**When Roosevelt University undergraduate James Davis grew impatient with lack of promotion at his hotel job, his mentor — a Roosevelt alumnus and hotel manager — was there to talk the 21-year-old down from the ledge.**

“In our industry, you don’t want to be a job hopper,” said John Wells, a 2013 graduate of Roosevelt’s Hospitality and Tourism Management master’s program and the general manager of Chicago Hilton and Towers.

“Your energy, aspirations and ambition are really impressive,” Wells told his mentee in November. “I would give the job a bit more of a run and see where it takes you.”

One of approximately 50 students already paired with professionals in Roosevelt’s new Career Mentoring Program, Davis accepted Wells’ advice and offer to help revamp his resume. Three months later, Davis got a promotion and a raise.

“It’s been an amazing experience,” said Davis, whose bi-weekly, two-hour meetings with his mentor fly by with talk about the hotel industry and their personal experiences at Roosevelt, in life and on the job.

**“I’m glad Roosevelt is giving us an opportunity to interact with successful people. I’m discovering who I am and where I want to be in the future.”**

– JAMES DAVIS (BBA, '17; EMSHTM, '18)

“I’m glad Roosevelt is giving us an opportunity to interact with successful people,” said Davis, a human resources major who will pursue a hotel management career after he graduates in December. “I’m discovering who I am and where I want to be in the future.”

Introduced by President Ali Malekzadeh, Roosevelt’s Mentoring Program is similar to programs that he started at business schools in 2003 at Xavier University in Cincinnati and in 2011 at Kansas State University.

“The idea behind mentoring is that someone besides your own family cares about you,” said Malekzadeh, who hit on the idea of undergraduates working with successful mentors about 20 years ago when his daughters were away at college.

Launched with 24 business executive mentors, the Xavier program today is a university-wide initiative with more than 700 matches annually. The Kansas State College of Business Administration initiative, meanwhile, has approximately 500 matches annually, and is a model for mentoring programs run by other colleges at Kansas State.

“It’s clear to me that mentors are absolute crucial linchpins to one’s success,” said Malekzadeh, whose ultimate goal is to make available a mentor to every Roosevelt undergraduate who wants one.

Supporting that sentiment, a national study of more than 30,000 college graduates recently found that workplace engagement was more than double among those who had caring professors and a mentor while in college.

“When it comes to finding the secret to success, it’s not ‘where you go,’ it’s ‘how you do it’ that makes all the difference in higher education,” according to the *Great Jobs Great Lives* Gallup-Purdue Index Report released in 2014.





With the future well-being of students in mind, Roosevelt began rolling out the Mentoring Program last fall that, in a word, is purposeful. Among its tenets, students and mentors are custom-matched and establish mandatory monthly meetings/conversations. Workshops, goal-setting and evaluations are part of the extensive process, which also offers the Roosevelt Office of Career and Professional Development's new Graduation Plan for Success (see related story on page 30).

"Almost everyone I've ever asked has said, 'Yes, I'll be a mentor, but you've got to do it well because I've been a mentor before and nothing ever came out of it,'" Malekzadeh said.

Job placement rates for mentees graduating from Xavier and Kansas State have been as high as 98 percent — a full point lower than the 99 percent job placement rate that the president envisions Roosevelt mentees achieving.

"This will be a signature program for Roosevelt," Malekzadeh said. "Its magic will come from a staff that works well with both mentors and mentees."

So far, 11 alumni and nine members of the Roosevelt Board of Trustees have signed on as mentors, and even those who are too busy to be mentors are enthusiastically supporting the new program. A grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation also supports the program.

"It's one thing to get into college, and another to get through college," said Robert Wieseneck, a Roosevelt trustee and alumnus who travels frequently, but is financially supporting the initiative. "We need to do whatever it takes to help our students graduate and be successful citizens."

Members of Roosevelt's growing pool of mentors include bankers, researchers, marketing and communications professionals, presidents, vice presidents, and seven executives from Chicago marketing and entertainment company Intersport.

"A lot of us joined because we wanted to help Roosevelt students who will be the first in their family to graduate from college," said

Steve Stroud, vice president of marketing and development at Intersport.

"It wasn't mandatory, just a good way to give back," said Stroud, whose mentee — Macedonian native Metodi Popovski, a history major and son of a fast food worker and cab driver — has been inspired by Stroud's professional success.

"I've never met someone as successful as you," Popovski told his mentor during a recent meeting at Intersport. "Hold on," Stroud replied, emphasizing what is really at stake. "If people around you are happy and living fulfilled lives, that's true success."

Mentees include first-generation college student Erika Gomez, a human resources major and junior who is paired with David Fairhurst, executive vice president and chief people officer at McDonald's; Amber Barkes, a 19-year-old Plano, Illinois English major exploring potential career options with Emily Osborne, public communications manager at the Chicago History Museum; and Peter Catchings, an MBA international business, finance and pre-law student and Roosevelt Lakers basketball player, who is paired with Robert Gibbs, McDonald's executive vice president and global chief communications officer, and former press secretary to President Barack Obama.

"We are off to a good start with quite a diverse array of mentors and mentees who are engaged in the program," said Katrina Coakley, associate provost for student success and manager of the program. "Our goal is to build a showcase program that ultimately benefits students in their careers and lives after graduation."

The Roosevelt Board of Trustees, led by Chair Patricia Harris, has been wholeheartedly in support of the program.

"I want to be there for young people, and particularly young women who are looking for role models," said Harris, retired global chief diversity officer for McDonald's Corp. and current mentor to 20-year-old Roosevelt junior Ta' Tee-Etta McBride, an English and secondary education major.

## 60+ MENTORS

have committed to  
the Roosevelt Career  
Mentoring Program



**"When I was a student at Roosevelt, I didn't necessarily have the kind of support that our new Career Mentoring Program offers, which is why it's important for me to give back."**

— PATRICIA HARRIS, (BGS, '80)  
Retired Global Chief Diversity Officer,  
McDonald's Corp.  
Chair, Roosevelt Board of Trustees

*Opposite page: James Davis (left) meets with Roosevelt mentor John Wells (MSHTM, '13).*



**“It’s one thing to get into college, and another to get through college. We need to do whatever it takes to help our students graduate and be successful citizens.”**

– ROBERT WIESENECK  
Roosevelt Trustee and Alumnus

*Above: Pat Harris laughs with mentees (left to right) Carlita Kelly, Ta’ Tee-Etta McBride and Tierra Jackson.*

“Pat is very professional and someone whom I want to continue to build a relationship with,” McBride said.

Harris (BGS, ’80) shared with her mentee the prospect of internship opportunities at McDonald’s, and suggested McBride reach out and network for contacts through People United to Serve Humanity (PUSH) Excel, the youth division of Rainbow PUSH, about her passion for high school teaching.

“When I was a student at Roosevelt, I didn’t necessarily have the kind of support that our new Mentoring Program offers, which is why it’s important for me to give back,” said Harris, who has been a mentor to several Roosevelt students prior to the program’s start.

Two of her Roosevelt mentees — 27-year-old international studies major Tierra Jackson and 22-year-old business marketing major Carlita Kelly — graduated from Roosevelt in 2016, landing jobs shortly thereafter.

“There aren’t many women of color in higher-end positions,” said Jackson, who interned with Harris at McDonald’s in 2014.

“Pat not only has been a role model, she’s also been a friend,” said Jackson, who got help from Harris obtaining furniture for her new apartment after landing a job as a program development specialist for a Chicago nonprofit agency.

“I got a new job as a social media manager. Pat noticed it right away on my LinkedIn page and reached out to me,” said Kelly, who is now working to earn an MBA at Roosevelt and is a student trustee on Roosevelt’s Board of Trustees.

Both mentees say they will continue to check in from time to time and keep Harris updated as they move ahead with their lives and careers.

“I want to be a good role model to my mentees and other mentors,” said Harris, whose goal is to recruit fellow trustees as mentors. “My hope is that many, if not all of our trustees, will become mentors.” **R**

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# The Roosevelt University Career Mentoring Program

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**Mission:** To establish and facilitate transformational partnerships between current students and exemplary, established adults in order to support mentees' development as engaged citizens and competent professionals.

## **Mentees Learn to:**

- Critically reflect and problem solve
- Communicate effectively
- Network with people outside Roosevelt
- Be confident in their strengths and abilities

## **Mentors Help Mentees to:**

- Set goals
- Engage in analytical thinking
- Learn from feedback
- Review/revise writing
- Solve problems/resolve conflicts
- Manage time/tasks
- Strengthen interpersonal skills
- Improve communication skills
- Conduct job searches
- Develop financial literacy
- Network

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**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A CAREER  
MENTOR, VISIT [ROOSEVELT.EDU/MENTORING](https://roosevelt.edu/mentoring)  
OR CONTACT KATRINA COAKLEY AT  
[KCOAKLEY01@ROOSEVELT.EDU](mailto:kcoakley01@roosevelt.edu)**

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# Mentor Match



*Above: Charles "Charlie" Gardner (right)  
with mentee Serhiy Kiyasov (BAPL, '17).*

## TWO ROOSEVELTIANS FIND COMMON GROUND ON THE TENNIS COURT

by LAURA JANOTA

**It was hardly coincidental for Roosevelt University's Career Mentoring Program to match Roosevelt senior Serhiy Kiyasov with Roosevelt Board of Trustees member Charles "Charlie" Gardner.**

Both are athletes. Both are gregarious. What's more, Kiyasov, an international student, wanted a better sense of Chicago — and who better to guide the way than Gardner, with his inside track on both the city and its people?

"It seemed like a very good fit," said Katrina Coakley, the Roosevelt associate provost for student success whose team matched mentee and mentor after they took personality surveys and submitted to separate interviews.

Coakley's team would not have predicted, however, that Kiyasov, an honors student, and Gardner, whose name as a donor graces the Roosevelt Lakers basketball court, would bond over the game of tennis, which they play together often.

"It's been an amazing coincidence," said Gardner, a retired Chicago real estate investment executive who once played professional basketball for the Denver Rockets in the American Basketball Association, and is now a tennis regular at Chicago's Midtown Athletic Club.

"It's been an interesting experience," said Kiyasov, who came to the United States from Ukraine, playing for the Roosevelt men's tennis team since 2014.

"Charlie never tries to be superior," Kiyasov said of his mentor, the former president and CEO of Chicago Dock and Canal Trust, where he managed and sold major landholdings and

served on a variety of boards and foundations in Chicago.

"He wants to share his experiences and at the same time learn something from me," Kiyasov said. "He's a mentor to me, and at the same time he's a good friend."

Since their pairing in fall 2016, Gardner and Kiyasov have played tennis at Midtown Athletic Club most Sundays, usually in doubles matches with Gardner's friends, including a Russian executive and a prominent Chicago attorney.

**"I certainly don't put any great demands on these kids. It's all about helping them in the way that they want to get ahead."**

— CHARLES "CHARLIE" GARDNER  
*Roosevelt Board of Trustees member*

"I don't have my family here, and I can't say Charlie is exactly a substitute," said Kiyasov, who saves his questions about Chicago and how to make it in the city for a lunch that usually follows the game with Gardner and his tennis friends.

"But I can tell you I always feel accepted in their company," he said. "I have a real good time on Sundays."

One of the first members of the Roosevelt Board of Trustees to sign on to Roosevelt's Mentoring Program, Gardner is one of the board's role

models for what a mentor can be.

"To me, the program is about the satisfaction you can take from meeting young people and hopefully helping them to progress," said Gardner, who so far has had three mentees, including Kiyasov.

"I certainly don't put any great demands on these kids," Gardner said. "It's all about helping them in the way that they want to get ahead."

For Kiyasov, having a mentor has meant gleaning advice on how he should present himself at his very best in a city that he wants to continue to call home.

"It's important to tell your own narrative," Gardner advised the paralegal studies graduate. "You always have to say what you think about yourself — and you need to know how to turn negatives about yourself into positives."

That advice eventually helped Kiyasov land an acceptance to DePaul University's College of Law, which he will attend in the fall.

"There's very little hardship and a lot of reward to attaching yourself to one student and then seeing how he or she progresses at the university and beyond in a career," said Gardner, who hopes others will join him in becoming a mentor.

Kiyasov's relationship with Gardner won't end anytime soon, particularly as the recent graduate starts to open new doors.

"It's not a finish. It's just the beginning," Kiyasov said. "I see Charlie as someone who can help lead me in the future — and he plays a good game of tennis too." ■





# Career Navigation with GPS

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GRADUATION PLAN FOR SUCCESS (GPS) ENGAGES STUDENTS  
EARLY IN CAREER PLANNING

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by LAURA JANOTA

**Along with the Career Mentoring Program, Roosevelt University is piloting a new career readiness program called the Graduation Plan for Success (GPS).**

Made possible in part by a grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the generosity of Roosevelt Board of Trustees members Steve Abbey and Robert Wieseneck, the GPS encourages the development of skills needed for finding a job and excelling in the workplace and beyond — all while Roosevelt students are still in college.

“We know becoming a professional doesn’t happen overnight,” said Jennifer Wonderly, director of Career and Professional Development at Roosevelt University. “The GPS is a great way for a student to get started thinking about a career — even from the very beginning when he or she first arrives on campus.”

Offering myriad career preparation opportunities, the GPS began in fall 2016 and already has a growing number of student participants.



*Roosevelt’s spring career fair drew more than 60 employers, including representatives from BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois.*



**“The GPS is a great way for a student to get started thinking about a career — even from the very beginning when he or she first arrives on campus.”**

– JENNIFER WONDERLY  
Director of Career and  
Professional Development

*Above: Roosevelt career specialists Jennifer Wonderly and Chris Willis at Roosevelt's spring career fair, attended by more than 200 students.*

In the program, students receive points for every approved career activity they attend. Students who earn at least eight points a year receive an official GPS Completion Designation for their college transcripts and resumes.

“So many of our students are the first in their families to go to college,” said Abbey, who is the GPS program's founding donor. “Many need support in not only making it through college, but also in learning how to use their college degrees once they leave Roosevelt.

“I believe career readiness training may be a way of ensuring that students actually succeed after college, and I'm hoping the program will be a model with ingredients it takes to put new graduates on a path to career success,” he said.

Recent GPS workshops and training sessions have included Career Boot Camp; Interviewing Tips; How to Prepare for the Career Fair; Spring 2017 Internship and Career Fair at Roosevelt's Goodman Center; English Majors Career Panel; Build Your Own Professional LinkedIn Network; LinkedIn with Dee Reinhardt; Over 40 and Hired; Job Search Strategies; Resume Workshop; and How to Build a LinkedIn Profile.

While these sessions are geared primarily toward Roosevelt students, alumni are welcome and can also receive career counseling, assessments, resume critiquing, resume referral and access to Roosevelt's job-bank database.

“We are getting, on average, between 15 and 20 people at these events,” said Wonderly, who is planning for even more GPS offerings in the fall. “We believe some of the student interest stems from a desire to earn points so students can obtain the GPS designation, which not only boosts one's resume, but also may impress potential employers.”

The Office of Career and Professional Development also has begun requiring student resumes to be reviewed before they are available to potential employers, including more than 60 who took part in Roosevelt's recent career fair at the Goodman Center.

Nineteen-year-old freshman Costen King is one of the Roosevelt students working toward his GPS designation. "I've taken workshops on doing job interviews and LinkedIn and I've gone to lectures by industry leaders in marketing," said King, an undergraduate business major with a concentration in marketing and finance.

"A college degree alone doesn't guarantee you a job," said King, who hopes to move after graduating in 2019 to New York City where he wants to work for Condé Nast, doing branding for the company's *GQ Magazine*. "I see the GPS as a supplement to my degree, and a way for me to actually have a leg up when I'm ready to get out there and apply for my dream job."


Paralegal studies major Katherine Gage, 22, who graduated in May, also participated in the GPS. "The workshops and lectures I took taught me how to behave in an office

environment and what to expect in the real world," said Gage, who found an internship during summer 2016 as a paralegal.

Gage received coaching at Roosevelt in interviewing, one of the reasons she believes she landed the internship in the first place. That experience led to her being offered a part-time job during her final semester at Roosevelt.

"I'm planning on putting my GPS certification on my resume," she said. "It will show prospective employers that I've been intentionally crafting myself to be a professional in the business world."

Emily Komendera, one of three career counselors who work with students and alumni in Roosevelt's Office of Career and Professional Development, said the sky is the limit for GPS participants.

"This is a program that gets students involved in career exploration before they actually get out on the job market," Komendera said. "We're helping our students to think about their options early and we're giving them the tools and resources they need to be successful in the workplace." 

**"So many of our students are the first in their families to go to college. Many need support in not only making it through college, but also in learning how to use their college degrees once they leave Roosevelt."**

— STEVE ABBEY

*Roosevelt Trustee, Founding GPS Donor*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
ROOSEVELT'S CAREER AND  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES,  
CALL (312) 341-3560**

*Left: Student exchanges business cards with career representative.*



| ROOSEVELT HISTORY |

# Treasures in the Attic

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THE ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

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by LYNN WEINER







**Roosevelt University is well known for its powerful founding story of social justice. Among its 90,000 alumni are such luminaries as former Chicago mayor Harold Washington, illustrator Shel Silverstein, and seven members of U.S. Congress.**

But did you know that Roosevelt is also distinguished for its archival collections? Faculty, staff, students and alumni from around the world have used these archives to study a wide array of topics related to the University, the city of Chicago, architecture, African-American history, music education, the history of higher education, the labor movement, and the New Deal.

There are some 30 university, government and historical archives in the city of Chicago. While it is one of the city's smaller archives, Roosevelt's stands out for its special collections. Although the University was founded in 1945, the first (and only) full-time professional archivist, Laura Mills, was hired just 10 years ago in 2007.

"Roosevelt's archives are incredible," she said, "and I see my job as creating a road map for researchers to find the material they need for their work, and for the recovery of often forgotten history."

With the help of student interns, she has taken on the daunting task of arranging the archives, digitizing the collections, and assisting researchers. Only a quarter of the collection — which consists of about 2,508 cubic feet of material — has been processed, and due to limited space in the Auditorium Building, much of the collection is stored on the Schaumburg Campus. Thanks to Mills' work over the past decade, much of the Roosevelt archival collections today are catalogued and available to the Roosevelt community and general public.

Researchers who have visited the archives recently include Dr. Miyuki Kita, a professor at the University of Kitakyushu in Japan. She visited in November 2016 to examine documents related to Roosevelt's founding, for a project on American universities and anti-Semitism in the 20th century.

The thousands of old papers, letters, speeches, photographs and ephemera, shelves upon shelves of books, the rapidly growing number of digital files —all are organized and preserved so that the remarkable information found within can more fully tell our histories. The following pages present some of the highlights of the archives.



# 2,508

Total cubic feet

ENTIRE ARCHIVE  
COLLECTION



**Archivist Laura Mills** (above) is dedicated to working with the resources we have to protect these many significant archival treasures. Her hope, she says, is “to make more people aware of the outstanding collections at Roosevelt so they can be put to good use and become part of the evolving historical record.”



## ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The photography collection preserves the institutional history of Roosevelt University, with more than 26,000 digitized images to date. The transformation of the bankrupt Auditorium Building and Hotel into a college campus is chronicled by hundreds of photos. The author of this article, Lynn Weiner, and Mills used this collection to assemble a photo history of the University, which was published by Arcadia Press in 2014.

There are also yearbooks, commencement programs and biographical files on approximately 1,000 professors, administrators and trustees, as well as the papers of former Roosevelt presidents. Boxes are filled with old class schedules; catalogs; news clippings; and student publications including *The Torch*, literary magazine *Oyez Review*, and alternative newspapers. The original letter signed by professors and staff who walked out of the Central YMCA College to protest the imposition of discriminatory admissions standards — leading to the foundation of this University — is also in the collection. So is the correspondence of the founders including such early financial supporters as Marshall Field.

One can find speeches by commencement speakers, lecturers, and a recently rediscovered file of correspondence by Eleanor Roosevelt during the years she headed the Roosevelt Advisory Board. Papers related to the visit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1957 have recently been recovered as well.

There are also objects related to the University, including Harold Washington’s mayoral office chair; University flags and seals; gifts from visiting dignitaries and to traveling presidents; and flyers, posters and souvenirs related to various anniversary celebrations and special events.

## THE CHICAGO MUSICAL COLLEGE COLLECTION

A forerunner to Roosevelt’s Chicago College of Performing Arts, the Chicago Musical College (CMC) was founded by Florenz Ziegfeld in 1869 and merged with Roosevelt College in 1954. This collection includes school catalogs from the CMC, recordings on vinyl and CDs, sheet music, and student account ledgers. There are collections in the archives proper but also in the Performing Arts Library, which is the largest conservatory library in Chicago.

There are musical scores of Rudolph Ganz, the founding dean of the Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt; and collections of books, scores, or other material from musicians Humbert Luccarelli, Ellis Schuman and Bernard Brindel, theatre professors Yolanda Lyon Miller and Joel Fink, and many others.







more than  
**1,590**  
ARTIFACTS

including  
**1**  
**MAYORAL CHAIR**  
(of former Chicago mayor  
and RU alumnus Harold  
Washington)

### JOEL SCHICK COLLECTION

Joel Schick (BA, '68) was a children's book illustrator and an artist for *Sesame Street*, donating his papers to Roosevelt in 2015. These include copies of his books, sketches, original artwork, correspondence, and even some of his old Roosevelt notebooks complete with doodles. Schick gave this collection to Roosevelt, he said, to show how art is produced — by “refining, redrawing, re-imagining, editing and discarding,” and to leave a record of a “journeyman illustrator.”



### CHRISTOPHER REED COLLECTION

Christopher Reed (BA, '63) was a history professor at Roosevelt from 1987–2009. He has written several books on the history of black Chicago and donated his collection of papers, books and photos related to Bronzeville and other Chicago sites central to African-American history.

more than  
**26,000**  
HISTORIC  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
DIGITIZED

**“Roosevelt’s archives are incredible, and I see my job as creating a road map for researchers to find the material they need for their work, and for the recovery of often forgotten history.”**

— LAURA MILLS  
Roosevelt University Archivist



Collections Related to  
**ROOSEVELT ALUMNI**



1,298  
BOOKS

in the CENTER  
for NEW DEAL  
STUDIES

18  
FDR  
CLOCKS



more than  
35,299  
STILL IMAGES



### CENTER FOR NEW DEAL STUDIES COLLECTION

In 1996, Chicago labor attorney Joe Jacobs donated his collection of artifacts related to Franklin D. Roosevelt to the University. These include a significant political button collection, paintings, commemorative dishware, clocks, comic books, campaign textiles and advertising featuring the New Deal and FDR. Many of these are displayed in the Center for New Deal Studies office in the Auditorium Building, along with some 1,300 books related to the Roosevelts, the New Deal and World War II. These archives are a resource for Chicago Metro History Fair competitors from area schools, and also contain the papers of Albert Lepawsky (1908-1992), a scholar of public policy and the New Deal. Objects from the collection have been featured in documentary films and exhibited at such venues as the Chicago History Museum.

### THE CITY CLUB OF CHICAGO COLLECTION

Documenting the longest-running civic forum in Chicago, this collection includes biographies of executive members; audio recordings; more than 3,000 photographs; and hundreds of program videos, featuring such prominent Chicagoans as the young Senator Barack Obama, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White.

### PAUL GREEN COLLECTION

The archives have recently received the books and papers of Paul Green, who prior to his death earlier this academic year was the chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and a widely respected expert on politics. This collection includes his research files, book drafts, class notes, and material relating to the general political process as well as Chicago and Illinois politics.



## CHICAGO AUDITORIUM ASSOCIATION COLLECTION (1886-1931)

The Auditorium Building is one of Chicago's iconic structures, created by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan and opened in 1889. This collection includes some of the oldest and most important artifacts in the archives, including documents from Adler's estate, bond issues for the construction of the building, blueprints, playbills, photographs, records of operation, tiles, stained glass and hotel room keys. Finally, there are also contemporary accounts of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, when the Auditorium Hotel housed many of the fair's visitors.



Collections Related to  
**AUDITORIUM BUILDING AND THEATRE**

## 7 BOOKS

from the  
**1893 WORLD'S FAIR**  
(dated 1893-94)

## LABOR ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Betty Balanoff was a history professor for 28 years, receiving a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 1970 to conduct and transcribe more than 60 interviews with Chicago area labor activists. These include Mollie Levitas of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Lillian Herstein of the Chicago Teachers Union, Addie Wyatt of the United Food and Commercial Workers, and Irving Abrams and Fred Thompson of the International Workers of the World. In 2001, the Illinois State Library funded a project to digitize these transcripts, which are now available online.

## THE ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY PAPERS

These documents were donated to Roosevelt in 2014 and include items related to the 1886 Haymarket riot, the stockyards and more than 7,600 photographs. There are additional collections from Teamsters Local 743, the Chicago Newspaper Guild and the Retired Teacher's Union.

## more than 4,361 SOUND RECORDINGS

**Roosevelt holds one of the most significant labor history archives in the Midwest,** including a pioneering oral history collection, as well as the papers of the Illinois Labor History Society and those of various unions and guilds.

Collections Related to  
**THE LABOR MOVEMENT**





*Above: The Auditorium Theatre during a  
Roosevelt University Commencement.*




# A Theatre for the People

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NEW AUDITORIUM THEATRE CEO TANIA CASTROVERDE MOSKALENKO  
HAS A BOLD VISION FOR THE HISTORIC LANDMARK

---

by LILY OBERMAN



**Tania Castroverde Moskalkenko wants The Auditorium Theatre to hold a special place in the hearts and minds of all Chicagoans. The theatre's new CEO recently unveiled the tagline "The Theatre for the People," which captures not only her vision for the venue's future, but that of the theatre's original developers, Dankmar Adler, Louis Sullivan and Ferdinand Peck.**

Castroverde Moskalkenko also recently announced the theatre's upcoming 2017-18 season, which includes performances such as *Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah*, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Shen Wei Dance Arts and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater tour. The theatre will also host Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Sedaris, and Ken Burns and Lynn Novick previewing their new documentary series.

Since joining the Auditorium Theatre in October 2016, Castroverde Moskalkenko has already presented Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba — a fitting first performance, as her family arrived from the Caribbean country as political refugees — as well as Alvin Ailey, the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra with Bernadette Peters, and more.



**“I am a firm believer in the transformational power of the arts and its ability to create bridges across cultures and communities.”**

– TANIA CASTROVERDE MOSKALENKO  
CEO, Auditorium Theatre

*Above, top to bottom: Chicago Jazz Philharmonic performs at Auditorium Theatre; Tania Castroverde Moskalenko*

As CEO, Castroverde Moskalenko oversees a number of different areas, including programming, development, marketing, operations, artistic vision and strategic direction. She has made it known that she plans to expand and diversify programming, strengthening its creative engagement initiatives, including the theatre’s new ADMIT ONE program.

Formerly president and CEO of the Center for the Performing Arts and the Great American Songbook Foundation in Carmel, Indiana, as well as a former dancer who ran her own company, Castroverde Moskalenko spoke about how she hopes to use her extensive experience in the arts in her new position at the Auditorium Theatre.

**Q: What are some of your goals for the Auditorium Theatre?**

**A:** I have a big vision for the Auditorium Theatre, which includes ensuring that this remarkable national historic landmark is in the hearts and minds of everyone in Chicagoland and beyond. We have some work to do to accomplish this, and the first step is to strengthen our programming. We are widely known for international dance, and we will continue to present the greatest dance companies from around the globe. I am also excited to let you know that we will be expanding our musical offerings with a broad range of artists.

**Q: What do your daily responsibilities consist of?**

**A:** First, I will say that I absolutely love the work that I do. I am a firm believer in the transformational power of the arts and its ability to create bridges across cultures and communities. My day-to-day work focuses on fulfilling the mission of the theatre, which supports my passion and commitment to the arts. I don’t have a daily routine because each day is completely different. I oversee programming, marketing, fundraising and development, finance and operations, so I spend a lot of time in meetings moving around the giant puzzle pieces that make the organization work.



**Q: What is ADMIT ONE and how can it benefit Chicagoland?**

**A:** ADMIT ONE is a new program funded by theatre patrons. It gives communities and their members from all over Chicagoland the opportunity to come for free to a theatre show or program. Our patrons have the option of donating to ADMIT ONE each time they purchase tickets. We then use the donations to accommodate those who might not otherwise be able to visit the theatre and see a show.

**Q: What led you to choose a career path dedicated to the arts?**

**A:** My family came to the United States as political refugees from Cuba when I was 6 years old. Two years after we arrived, when I was 8 years old, a truck full of furniture arrived at our newly purchased home. The first item off the truck was a white spinet piano, and my mother sat down to play it as soon as the truck was unloaded. She played the music of Ernesto Lecuona, Cuba's greatest composer, and she began to weep. All of her emotions came to the surface when she played this music. At that moment, my love for the arts was born.

**Q: How did you express your passion for the arts early on? Why have you remained dedicated?**

**A:** As newly arrived immigrants, my family was not financially able to participate in the arts, so for many years I checked books out of the library to learn about music and dance, and listened to classical music on the radio. I loved the music of classical ballets like *Swan Lake*. I pestered my parents long enough to convince them to enroll me in ballet lessons, which was a true luxury. That privilege was not lost on me, and it set the course for my life and career. To this day, I am completely committed to ensuring that the arts are accessible for everyone.

**Q: What appeals to you about the theatre and CEO position?**

**A:** When I first saw the theatre, its amazing architecture took my breath away. I became captivated by the history and architecture of the Auditorium Theatre and feel equally inspired by the mission, vision and values of this national historic landmark, which is why I introduced "The Theatre for the People" label. I feel it is an honor and a privilege to lead this institution into its next chapter. There is much work to do in restoring this 127-year-old facility to its original glory and splendor, and I feel like I am someone who is able to wrap my arms around all that needs to be done and all that we aspire to achieve.

**Q: Tell us about your experiences in Chicago.**

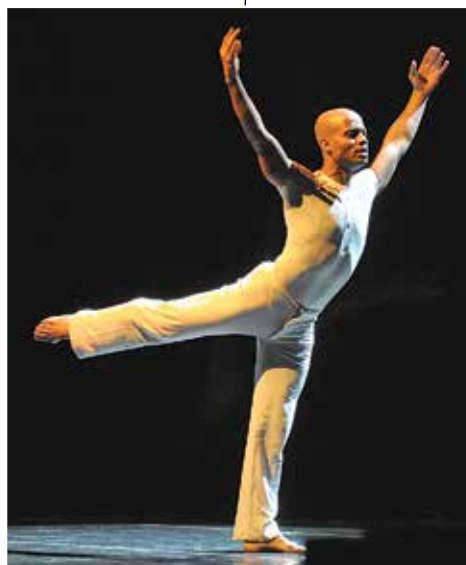
**A:** I moved to the city with my husband, Alexei Moskalenko, who is a former Bolshoi Ballet dancer and current associate artistic director for the Youth America Grand Prix, and our 8-year-old twins. We live downtown with an amazing view of the lake, the park and the skyline, and I have fallen in love with the city. I have read all about the "lake effect," but after living here for five months, I think the true "lake effect" is the magic that the lake has on one's psyche and soul.

**Q: What are some of your favorite things to do when you are not working?**

**A:** I love to travel, attend arts and cultural events, eat out and read. I recently finished *The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream* by Thomas Dyja, which is about the history of the city and Chicago's culture. I am also working on a master's degree in philanthropic studies from Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. ■

**"I became captivated by the history and architecture of the Auditorium Theatre and feel equally inspired by the mission, vision and values of this national historic landmark, which is why I introduced 'The Theatre for the People' label."**

– TANIA CASTROVERDE MOSKALENKO  
CEO, Auditorium Theatre



Above: A dancer performs during the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater tour.

# **They Do What?**

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AVOCATIONS OF ROOSEVELT FACULTY AND STAFF

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by LYNN WEINER

**Our faculty and staff sometimes take a break from their work at Roosevelt University. Many of them are bloggers, competitive runners, cooks, golfers, tennis players, gardeners, volunteers or gamers. But sometimes, their extra-curricular activities are a bit unexpected.**





## JOE CHAN →

*Professor of Information Systems*

Joe Chan has taught information systems at Roosevelt since 2002 and served twice as dean of the Heller College of Business. He has studied the martial arts for even longer — 40 years. He learned Kodokan Judo at a young age and then studied Taekwondo under a Korean master in the 1990s. He now holds a sixth-degree black belt in Taekwondo and is an active practitioner and certified master instructor of the art.



## ADRIAN THOMAS →

*Professor of Psychology*

The director of the Industrial/Organizational Psychology PhD program, Adrian Thomas is also a competitive fastpitch softball player who has been a member of four teams over the past 25 years, twice on teams which won the national championship. Since 2014, he has played second base for the North American Fastpitch Association's Wilcom Mobil Team from Kenosha, Wisconsin, which was the national runner-up in 2015. He has twice been named All-World second baseman.



## ← JIM MICHAEL

*Director of Development  
Corporation and Foundation Relations*

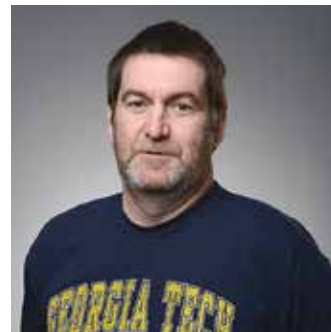
Jim Michael raises money for Roosevelt, but has also won three world silver medals in the Masters 4 Division of the International Federation of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. He has trained in martial arts and combat sports for 30 years.



## ← PAMELA ROBERT

*Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology*

Pamela Robert's work focuses on inequality, maternal-child health, and disability discrimination. She holds a second-degree black belt in Seido Karate, a discipline she has been practicing for almost 20 years. She serves on the Board of Directors of Thousand Waves, a martial arts and self-defense center in Chicago, where she chairs the Violence Prevention and Self Defense committee. She is also an organizer and regular contributor to the Meditations on Activism program.



## ← ALI MALEKZADEH

*President and Professor of Business*

President Malekzadeh is an experienced academic administrator known for his work on strategic management, leadership and organizational behavior. Beginning in the 1990s he began to train in Taekwondo and achieved the level of fourth degree black belt and certified instructor. Taekwondo was a family affair — Malekzadeh studied the sport along with his wife and two daughters, all of whom achieved fourth-degree black belt status as well as international rankings.





## ← DARLENE MORRIS-FULLERTON

*Director of Financial Strategy and Planning*

When she's not overseeing Roosevelt financial strategy or studying for an MBA, Darlene Morris-Fullerton is an award-winning rhythm and blues singer, performing with her husband Timothy Fullerton in the ensemble Time Morris Featuring Diva D. She has sung for over a decade at such places as Back Room Chicago, Navy Pier and music festivals throughout the city. In 2014, Time Morris won the African American Arts Alliance of Chicago's Black Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music — Rhythm and Blues.

## JUDY A. DYGDON →

*Associate Professor of Psychology*

An expert in learning-based approaches in clinical psychology, Judy Dygdon, with her husband Tony Conger (also a psychologist and professor emeritus at Purdue), is a competitive ballroom dancer specializing in the American Smooth style. They have been competing for 18 years, starting at the beginner Bronze level and now dance at the top Championship level of amateur competition.

Previously they've competed in country-western dancing and wrote three instructional line-dance books.



## ← EDWARD GREEN

*Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice*

Edward "Eddy" Green teaches criminal justice but is also an award-winning guitarist, songwriter and performer who specializes in bluegrass, country, blues and rock 'n' roll. He has performed with bands that have opened for such performers as Leon Russell, Old Crow Medicine Show and many others. Green has released six CDs and in 2016 reached the semi-finals of the International Songwriting Competition.

## BONNIE GUNZENHAUSER →

*Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English*

When she's not leading Roosevelt's largest college or researching the history of literacy, Bonnie Gunzenhauser sings alto with the Chicago Chorale, a 62-voice chorus based in Chicago's Hyde Park. She has been a member of the chorale since 2004.



## ← LARRY HOWE

*Professor of English*

A specialist in Mark Twain and in film studies, Fulbright Scholar Larry Howe is also a mandolin player and songwriter with the Compass Rose Sextet. Since 1999 his group has produced three CDs and performed music defined as world folk and gypsy jazz at clubs, festivals and other venues. He also writes articles about mandolin builders for the *Fretboard Journal*.

## BILL MACKAY →

*Senior Secretary, Dean's Office, Heller College of Business*

Bill Mackay has been at Roosevelt for 15 years, and currently works in the College of Business. For 30 years, he has also been a songwriter, composer and guitarist, performing on 16 records (eight with his own music), touring the country, and sitting in with various groups. His newest record was published in May by Drag City Records featuring a mix of folk music, experimental rock and jazz.



## PRISCILLA PERKINS →

*Associate Professor of English*

Priscilla Perkins teaches American literature and is also a fiber artist specializing in documentary embroidery. She creates works focused on historical and contemporary issues of social justice.



## RUDY MARCOZZI →

*Associate Dean of the Chicago College of Performing Arts  
and Professor of Music Composition*

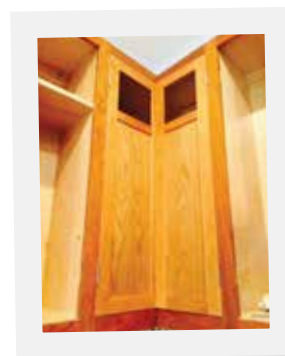
Rudy Marcozzi has been a cabinetmaker since high school. His projects have included wall units, exterior and interior doors, and most recently kitchen cabinets and a baptismal font for the Catholic chapel at Northwestern University.



## ← DEBBIE YATES

*Administrative Secretary, Heller College of Business*

In her “other life,” Debbie Yates is an avid quilter. She has been quilting for some 35 years and is an active member of a quilt guild; her work has been featured at large international quilt shows as well as locally.



## ← CHARLES MADIGAN

*Presidential Writer-in-Residence*

Charles “Charlie” Madigan came to Roosevelt in 2007 to teach journalism and politics after a career at a number of newspapers, including the *Chicago Tribune*, where he worked for 29 years as an editor, correspondent and senior writer. A guitarist for 54 years and a performer for 25, he now also builds ukuleles. Over the past three years he has built and sold 15 instruments, branded as “travelin’ rat ukes.”



## MIKE HELFORD →

*Associate Professor of Psychology*

Mike Helford teaches industrial/organizational psychology and is also a fish hobbyist with 60 tanks in his basement, housing cichlids from Africa, many of which are endangered or extinct in the wild. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association.



## ← PAUL WERTICO

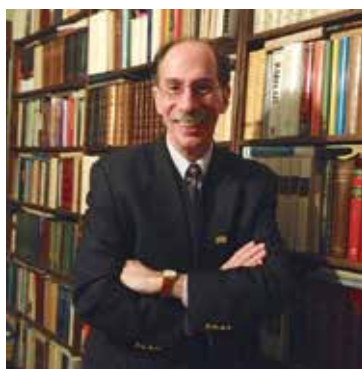
*Associate Professor of Jazz Studies*

Seven-time Grammy winner Paul Wertico teaches jazz and is a percussionist who has toured the world with the Pat Metheny Group and other ensembles. Wertico has also been a train enthusiast since he was a boy, collecting model trains (he owns more than 100 of them, and 42 switches) that run around his basement in a model town called Taliaville, named after his daughter. He collects railroad books and artifacts, and whenever he can — especially when he's on tour — he rides or drives trains, having done so throughout the U.S. and the world in countries including Croatia, France, New Zealand and Hungary. He has a new group — *Paul Wertico's Off the Rails Trio* — which performed this spring at an event for the Center for Railroad Photography & Art in Madison, Wisconsin.

## DONNETTE NOBLE →

*Associate Professor and Chair of Organizational Leadership*

Donnette Noble's academic field is diversity and leadership. She is also a serious (very serious) baseball fan. She has visited all 30 major league baseball parks in the United States, some of them twice if they've been remodeled or relocated. Why? Baseball, she simply says, is her favorite sport; she loves the game, strategy, talent, environment, history and even the umpires.



## ← STUART D. WARNER

*Associate Professor of Philosophy  
and Director, the Montesquieu Forum*

Stuart Warner teaches courses on Montesquieu, Plato, philosophy in film, politics and literature, and much more. Before he was a professor he began a book collection by spending \$32 on an eight-volume history of philosophy. His collection has grown to include over 9,000 scholarly, rare or antiquarian books, including a 1625 edition of Francis Bacon's *Essays*, a first edition of Montesquieu's *Lettres Persanes* published in 1721, and a first edition of Alexis de Tocqueville's classic *Democracy in America*, published in 1835 and 1840.

## WILLIAM HOST →

*Associate Professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management*

William "Bill" Host teaches courses in hospitality management and also collects postcards related to Chicago hotels and tourist sites, the bulk of which are from the first half of the 20th century.

His collection of nearly 2,000 postcards was the basis for his co-authored book, *Early Chicago Hotels* (2006).



## JANE CURTIS →

*Associate Professor, English Language Program*

Jane Curtis has taught hundreds of international students in the English Language program since 1982. A native of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Curtis has been named an “Official Ambassador” for Groundhog Day. She says she was tricked by her mother into baking groundhog cookies every year, and that the groundhog family tradition has emerged in the next generation, as her niece is getting married at Gobbler’s Knob this summer.

Gobbler’s Knob, of course, in Punxsutawney, is the site on Feb. 2 where the groundhog annually sees — or doesn’t see — its shadow to predict the length of winter.



## ← KEN KING

*Professor of Elementary Education*

Ken King works in the field of science education, but has also participated in Boy Scouts of America continuously since he first joined the Cub Scouts in 1968. An Eagle Scout, he has served on numerous national and regional committees, helped develop handbooks for the young adult venturing program, and co-created eight handbooks for Cub Scouts and their leaders. This past May, he received the 2017 Silver Buffalo Award, Scouting’s highest commendation, for his service to young people.

## JONATHAN C. SMITH →

*Professor of Psychology*

Jonathan C. Smith specializes in studies of stress, relaxation and mindfulness, and teaches critical thinking skills. In his spare time, he founded the Reformed Church of the Spaghetti Monster and has published its gospel, *The Pastafarian Quatrains*. Pastafarianism, for the uninitiated, is a social movement spoofing and resisting the ideologies of creationism and intelligent design.









# Hakuna Matata

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CONSERVATION BIOLOGY FIELDWORK  
AND THE LARGER LESSONS OF LIFE

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by NORBERT CORDEIRO



**massive fallen tree blocks the only road to Mount Nilo, temporarily halting our team's field visit to this remote, lush rainforest.**

It is the early morning of Jan. 22, 2017. Though I have been to Tanzania on a number of occasions to prepare for trips with Roosevelt students taking my Tropical Biology and Conservation class, this is the first time in 22 years that I am returning to the Nilo Nature Reserve.

Together with colleagues Dr. Henry Ndangalasi from the University of Dar es Salaam, Victor Mkongewa, and Martino Joho of BirdLife Tanzania, I am certain the trip will be less about nostalgia and more about protecting the rainforest.

As conservation biologists, we are investigating how disturbance of the forest by local communities, including logging and farming, impacts the area's globally endangered animals and plants.

The fallen tree throws a bump in our travels that could easily delay us by hours or days. However, being Tanzanian, my colleagues and I are all too familiar with the Swahili motto *hakuna matata* [no worries]. One way or another, we understand we will eventually make our way onward for the last hour of the trip to our camping site. All we need is a bit of patience, luck and the knowledge that an obstacle is only an obstacle if you let it be one.

*Left: Professor Norbert Cordeiro (far left) with Tropical Biology and Conservation students at a wild fig tree in Tanzania, 2013.*



## Tanzania at a Glance

Capital: Dodoma

Area: approx. 945,000 km<sup>2</sup>

National Language: Swahili

National Animal: Giraffe

Highest Peak: Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain



**“Perhaps there is an emotional attachment linked to raising my daughter for the first two years of her life in the East Usambaras... No matter my personal reasons, one thing is certain: Tanzania needs all the help it can get.”**

– NORBERT CORDEIRO  
Associate Professor of Biology

Hardly 15 minutes later, along comes a noisy *boda boda*, a local motorbike taxi, the loud mechanical whirring of the engine drowning the rainforest's melodious sounds of birds, shrills of crickets and tinkling of tree frogs.

For a time, the *boda boda*, too, is stopped by the fallen forest giant. Working as a team in typical Tanzanian fashion, we cut large tree branches and thick lianas that snake around the fallen tree. These woody vines use the tall trees to get to the forest canopy, only in this case they are to die with their fallen host.

A narrow space is carved away from a corner below the fallen tree, large enough to allow slanting *boda bodas* through with a little pushing and pulling.

One passes under with a passenger aboard, but the driver has given us two numbers of other drivers to call by cell. Victor calls, negotiates the fees, and within another half an hour, we leave our land rover behind, squeeze under the fallen tree, hop onto *boda bodas* with equipment, food and supplies, and head to our campsite.

My initial visit to Nilo in 1994 was the first time that Tanzanian biologists had visited the East Usambara Mountains since early exploration in the 1920s. On that trip, we rediscovered the endangered Tanzania mountain weaver, a bird that many believed was extinct. We also obtained the first record of the long-billed tailorbird, one of the most critically endangered species on the planet. This bird is found only in Tanzania's East Usambaras, and is one of the reasons I returned to Nilo in January.

Our assignment was to locate tailorbird territories found earlier by the BirdLife field team in 2009, and to gauge the condition of the bird's habitat. Climbing steep slopes and traversing about 15 miles a day for close to two weeks, we explored all 19 known territories, and discovered three new areas where the bird lives as well.

My involvement in this conservation effort is multi-faceted. I serve as BirdLife Species Guardian for the tailorbird (an honorary position), training Tanzanians in field-research techniques and collaborating with various partners and stakeholders on tangible strategies for conservation of this rare species.

Since 2005, my guardian work has allowed me to travel home to Tanzania at least once a year, giving me the opportunity to reconnect with family, friends and colleagues. These trips also reignite my love for nature and people, paving the way for development of sound conservation strategies for the East Usambaras.

I have developed important relationships in this remote area. It is not near the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, where I was born and raised. However, I have found the East Usambaras to be my home away from home, and the ideal place to engage my students in tropical conservation.

Perhaps there is an emotional attachment linked to raising my daughter for the first two years of her life in the East Usambaras, where her main toys were chameleons and tree frogs. Perhaps it is because the village we spend most of our time in is called Amani, which means “peace” in Swahili — a way of life embedded in the village's aura, culture and landscape.

No matter my personal reasons for attachment, one thing is certain: Tanzania needs all the help it can get. Approximately 65 percent of the country's nearly 50 million people live below the poverty line. Given this circumstance, it isn't surprising there is pressure on natural resources, like the rainforest, which has led to deforestation rates equivalent to the loss of 400,000 football fields per year over the last two decades.

Deforestation is pervasive in the East Usambaras, an area rich in flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world. We must make an effort to preserve this endangered place that is tied to local livelihoods and the environmental health of our entire planet. It is a calling we cannot ignore.



Above, top to bottom: Emmanuel Mgimwa of BirdLife Tanzania (far right) demonstrates how to tag a bird for field study, 2016. Pictured from left are students Brittney Austin, April Aloway, Wenke Dahl; Henry Ndangalasi, Nickson Ndangalasi; and professor Kelly Wentz-Hunter. Roosevelt students (from left) Olivia Downs, Maggie Dobek, Arielle Nausieda, Sarah Callaghan, Carli Schlaker and Najoua Alioualla travel into the Tanzanian savannah.





**“Learning should be about success, failure and the unexpected, as well as how to handle such outcomes in academics and in life.”**

– NORBERT CORDEIRO  
Associate Professor of Biology

*Above: Roosevelt student Ashley Kordas examines a rare two-horned chameleon.*

Collaboration and cooperation with others are key to preserving this environmental treasure, and my research, which frequently includes Roosevelt students, as well as my position as a species guardian, have allowed me to work with amazing people and organizations from all over the world.

Because of our efforts, I view the world as connected in inter-disciplinary ways, from professionals to local villagers, conservation managers to researchers, students to trained academics, and followers to leaders.

It is also a world where we work together to curb and remediate environmental destruction, at the same time always considering what is at stake for those who must try to get by in one of the world’s poorest countries.

With all of this in mind, I created an experiential learning course for Roosevelt students called Tropical Biology and Conservation 369-469. Since 2013, three classes totaling 40 students visited the East Usambaras.

On these expeditions, my students learn about complexities involved in

conserving the savannah ecosystem of the Ngorongoro-Serengeti; they then join local communities in efforts to combat rainforest destruction; and they plant thousands of tree seedlings that can help reverse deforestation.

Learning should be about success, failure and the unexpected, as well as how to handle such outcomes in academics and in life. In this course, I want students to be aware that travel and fieldwork require flexibility.

Tanzania is a place that operates in a completely different cultural context than many of us understand. I inform my students in the classroom before we leave that they will have to work outside their comfort zone. I ask them to consider that “time” as they know it in the developed world isn’t perceived in the same way where they will be working in Tanzania. I encourage them to accept each day for what it brings.

In my experiences, especially growing up in Tanzania, failure and the unexpected are normal. How one perceives these outcomes determines personal and social growth. I believe not knowing what is to come, yet learning to expect the best of every situation, makes for more contentment with an experience and with life in general.

I don’t expect everyone to embrace this “glass half-full” mentality, but I do want my students to think about the concept during their travel and work in the wilds of eastern Africa.

It was therefore surprising to me that one of my former students, Roosevelt alumna Té Monoski, shared thoughts about the transformation that resulted from our first trip to Tanzania in May 2013.

“Our class trip to Tanzania was not just a momentary adventure, it was the experience that I would base future endeavors on for the rest of my life. Our trip forced me out of my comfort zone, and I loved every minute of it. Those few weeks in Tanzania, riding around in our jeep, to this day, remain one of the only instances in my life where every day was completely different from the previous. Every day I was learning and experiencing something totally new and wonderful ... from birdcalls and mixed species [bird] flocks to rainforest vegetation and wildlife. It was addicting, and I felt the loss immediately upon returning to Chicago. Taking this trip to Tanzania cemented the way I choose to approach experiences in my life. Take chances, immerse yourself in new things, leave your comfort zone. Feel alive!”

Like almost all my students, Té was interested in understanding other cultures, being respectful of one another, and thinking about how we fit into the larger global environment. She and fellow student Corinna Dampf, along with the BirdLife Tanzania field team, used recorded birdcalls by a rare species known as the drongo to entice birds in the rainforest into hunting flight so that the drongo could catch insects from the birds’ wings.

The data collected studying the impact of the drongo’s habitat was the foundation for publication of a paper in the international peer-reviewed journal *Biological Conservation*. Their study also set the stage for further evaluation of how human disturbance affects interactions among dependent rainforest species, and the integrity of habitats.

Inquisitive, driven, inspiring — those are traits of the Roosevelt students I know and cherish. When I am with them, they give me energy and desire to keep learning new things and asking new questions. In the classroom prior to the trip, my students learn to become critical thinkers capable of problem solving while developing their projects at home and in executing those projects in the field.


Their projects have included: understanding butterfly diversity in the forest canopy vs. ground vegetation; conducting population censuses of the rare chameleons in farms vs. the rainforest; and identifying and estimating the abundance of animals in disturbed vs. undisturbed rainforest using motion-triggered camera traps.

It is awe-inspiring to see my students engaged. They learn how to work closely with local Tanzanian experts, some who speak limited English, and to eventually arrive at answers to questions their projects pose.

According to May 2016 graduation speaker Najoua Alioualla, the Tanzanian learning experience demands “many skills ... such as critical thinking, adaptive learning and application strategies.” She calls it a “holistic approach to learning” that teaches not only conservation biology, but also training and implementation of independent, student-designed field experiments.

In the spring of 2018, I will return to Tanzania with more Roosevelt students. As always, I will make a reconnaissance visit as I did in January to plan, talk to local collaborators and field-test new project ideas. I am excited to work with an excellent team that includes Roosevelt biology professor Kelly Wentz-Hunter, who adds great depth by developing social interactions among students, and Dr. Ndangalasi, whose calmness and exuberance impart his immense passion for plants and all things Tanzanian.

There will be minor obstacles, like the giant tree that fell and temporarily blocked our path. However, I will be just as excited as my students about the upcoming journey, for Roosevelt students are a different breed. They ask insightful questions and are curious, open to new ideas and people, and authentically engaged in learning and activism.

I hope many will remember the motto *hakuna matata* when facing obstacles, as it will remind them of the resilience and flexibility they need to live in a world where each day brings the unexpected. 

**“...Roosevelt students are a different breed. They ask insightful questions and are curious, open to new ideas and people, and authentically engaged in learning and activism.”**

**— NORBERT CORDEIRO**  
*Associate Professor of Biology*



**Norbert Cordeiro** is an associate professor of biology at Roosevelt University. His specializations are in tropical conservation biology and ecology, and he serves as an editor for two African journals and one international journal in these fields. His research has focused in his native Tanzania, where he has spent the greater part of the last 27 years studying the ecology and conservation of the globally biodiverse East Usambara Mountains. His fieldwork with Roosevelt students has been possible in part thanks to student scholarships provided by Dr. Stuart Meyer (BS, '56).





## Family Comes First

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WINNER OF THE AMERICAN DREAM RECONSIDERED  
CONFERENCE ESSAY COMPETITION

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by SAMANTHA BARNES (BA, '20)

**When I think of the American Dream, my mind immediately goes back to my senior year in high school, sitting in my literature class reading Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.** The idea of the American Dream in the play is *economic success*. Willy Loman, the main character, lived with his wife in a seemingly perfect home in the suburbs. He strove for success in his job, but also for the success of his two sons. His American Dream was a traditional one: buy a comfortable home, achieve success in the workplace, and raise children who would follow his path. The ending to the play speaks to just how fragile this dream is. Loman's sons have no direction and fail in finding success, while he himself loses everything and dies in a tragic, possibly suicidal, accident.

The American Dream enticed immigrants to come to America, find a steady job, purchase a home, and live a comfortable life with their families. They would achieve success that they could never have in their home countries.

Today it is very different. Many young people today share Miller's pessimistic outlook on the American Dream. They choose to establish a career long before they decide to settle down. When interviewed by *U.S. News and World Report* for its October 2016 issue, millennials said that while they don't think often about the American Dream, they locate their own idea of success in achieving "a satisfying career."

I grew up in a large Catholic family, complete with 20 aunts and uncles and more than 50 cousins. Family has always been a large part of my life. My siblings and I have always gotten along perfectly, a few fights and teasing now and then — who doesn't! — but all things considered, it feels as if we were friends even before we were siblings.


My parents were a somewhat different story. While I loved both of them more than anything, I was always closer with my mom. When my parents began having children, my mom quit her job in order to take care of us. We all spent quality time with her throughout our childhood, but since I was the youngest, it eventually became just her and me. After years of spending every day with her, my mom and I became best friends ... in a way. You could always find us together. From going to the grocery store, to sitting in bed late at night watching *Real Housewives* and laughing hysterically together. This relationship with my mom and the rest of my family was the beginning of what I now consider my American Dream. When I look at the closeness I have with my family and compare it to others who are nowhere near it, I realize just how important it is to me to maintain that relationship.

The event that solidified my American Dream, my life with my family, was my mom's diagnosis. When I was in the seventh grade, we learned that she had frontotemporal dementia. I can still remember so clearly the day my parents first told us. We were sitting in the car in a store parking lot full of snow, and I was crying at my dad's words: "She eventually won't be able to speak." I didn't truly understand the gravity of this until much later.

A few years down the road, when I was the only child left in the house, my dad and I were the only people really to understand the transformation she was in the process of undergoing. Even a year after her diagnosis, she was still as quick-witted as ever and lived life as normally as she could with her future looming over her head. By my junior year, we needed someone outside of the family to help when my dad and I weren't there. You could see the dementia overtaking her. She would become agitated, unable to finish sentences, and couldn't use utensils to eat. I spent much of my time outside of school with her, helping to calm her down and take a nap if she was feeling especially irritated that day or helping to feed her and give her medicine. Those days truly showed me how much I value my family.

In just a couple of years, my mom had turned into a new person. I had to take care of her in ways that, as her daughter, I would never have imagined. I had an entirely new appreciation for the family I loved. I bonded more with my dad, who understood exactly what I was going through, and we became each other's confidants. I felt as if I was repaying my mother for all of her love and the work she put into raising us. I enjoyed my childhood so much because of her and gained a new appreciation for all she did for us.

It was at this exact point that my American Dream crystallized. With my mom's diagnosis, and the subsequent events, I understood the importance of my family and saw how, even through the most difficult times, we were able to stay together and remain strong.

The original American Dream, as Miller indicated, was to come to America, land a well-paying job, buy a house, and have one's children partake in one's success. More recently, young people have fastened this Dream almost exclusively to the idea of a career. At this point in my life, my version of the Dream differs. For me, it is staying close with my family. Success is to maintain the closeness we share and continue to stay strong together. 



**“This relationship with my mom and the rest of my family was the beginning of what I now consider my American Dream.”**

— SAMANTHA BARNES (BA, '20)

**Samantha “Sammi” Barnes** is a first-year psychology major in the Honors Program from Hinckley, Illinois. Her essay won first place in the American Dream Reconsidered Essay Competition, sponsored by the Montesquieu Forum.



# The American Dream

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A MILLENNIAL CONTEMPLATES THE AMERICAN DREAM

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by GIACOMO A. LUCA (BA, '14)

**It is a longstanding Italian custom to name your children after their grandparents. The tradition is a tremendous honor. It is also a way for a person's memory to live on through another, even after death.**

My family has carried on that tradition, as I was named after my grandfather. He first comes to mind as I ponder the idea of the American Dream, which it seems to me has changed since my grandfather came to this country more than 60 years ago.

My grandfather was born in 1939 in the small town of Fuscaldo in poverty-stricken Southern Italy. He immigrated to America when he was 18 years of age, became an American citizen, married and had a family. He spent 17 years as a tailor and another 27 years working in a tool-and-die shop until a heart attack forced him to retire in 2006.

Growing up, I had always known the American Dream to be the idea that every American has an equal opportunity to work hard, which would result in a fulfilling life with one's own home, family and guaranteed retirement.

However, because of rising college costs and changing expectations in today's job market, I believe that version of the American Dream is not as easy to achieve as it was for my grandfather.

Married 50 years, he and my grandmother are comfortably retired in a quiet neighborhood on the west side of Cincinnati where they live in the same quaint ranch house where my father and his siblings were raised, and where I spent most of my childhood.

By the time I am their age, maybe even a little sooner, I hope to be in the financial position to do the same. However, I believe there are obstacles that could get in the way of millennials like myself achieving that version of the American Dream.

My parents had me in their early 20s, and divorced not long after. My dad is a tool-and-die maker, my mother a housemaid. They didn't graduate from college. Theirs was a generation in which a high school education frequently was enough for employment.

I was privileged to have been educated in a quality public school system that prepared me for college. In 2014, I became the first person in my family to earn a bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University. Words cannot describe what this accomplishment has meant to my parents, grandparents and myself.

Over the past six years, I have moved three times and thousands of miles from home in order to pursue a career in TV journalism. Like many millennials, I am content to make these sacrifices as long as I am working in a career that personally fulfills me. To me, this is the new American Dream.

While I admit that I didn't have everything growing up, I had what I needed. I was fortunate and blessed to be raised by hard-working parents and grandparents whose strong work ethic so influenced me. They taught me if I worked hard I could achieve anything I wanted, and I believed them.

Unfortunately, nearly half of 18 to 29-year-olds don't believe the American Dream is alive for them, according to a 2015 survey by Harvard University's Institute of Politics.

I don't think the basic idea of the American Dream — working hard and being fulfilled — has dramatically changed for today's young people. However, the expectations

and obstacles they face in order to achieve the dream have shifted considerably.

Long gone is the idea of any job being the ticket to a comfortable life in a quiet neighborhood. In today's job market, some form of college degree is expected. Thus, more people are going to college and more money is spent on a college education.

My degree cost six times the salary I earned in my first TV job, but realistically, I had to obtain a college degree if I wanted to land a job in the field. Thus, I have joined approximately 44 million others, who, along with aspirations of bettering their futures, collectively have more than \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt.

Millennials earn a median household income of \$40,581, which is less than the average U.S. household income of \$56,516, and 20 percent less than baby boomers took home at the same stage of life as today's millennials, according to a variety of federal data.

Traditions, like carrying on the family name, may live on, but the truth is that priorities have shifted since my grandfather's day when working meant retiring to a home in that quiet neighborhood.



For millennials like myself, today's American Dream is more about achieving peace of mind. We need a job to pay for student loans and living expenses, and can only hope that benefits like healthcare and retirement come along with that job.

I see the American Dream as being more about being fulfilled by work itself than it is for the work to be a means to one day enjoy fulfillment. It's not that we millennials don't want a house, family and retirement in a quiet neighborhood. For many of us, however, that part of the American Dream will have to come much later. **R**

**“Traditions, like carrying on the family name, may live on, but the truth is that priorities have shifted since my grandfather's day when working meant retiring to a home in that quiet neighborhood.”**

— GIACOMO A. LUCA (BA, '14)



*Above: Giacomo Luca reporting for Sacramento's ABC News10.*

**Giacomo Luca** earned his BA in journalism in 2014, and is now a general assignment reporter for ABC News10 in Sacramento, California.





## Athletics Year in Review

2016-17 LAKERS ACHIEVEMENTS

by JOHN JARAMILLO



**The 2016-17 year was full of achievements across the board for the Roosevelt Athletic Department as the Lakers continue their pursuit to be one of the most well-rounded venues for student-athlete success in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).**

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## Men's Soccer

The Roosevelt men's soccer team entered the fall with high expectations following last year's CCAC regular season and tournament championships. Ranked 22nd in the 2016 NAIA Preseason Top 25 Poll, the Lakers got off to a strong start with a huge 3-2 overtime road win over nine-time national champion Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky. Injuries to key players, including 2015 CCAC Player of the Year Evan Trychta and All-CCAC First Team catalyst Jose Garcia, slowed down Roosevelt's momentum and led to a double-overtime quarterfinal ouster in the CCAC tourney. However, with Garcia back from injury this fall and head coach Graham Brennan's 52-21-6 record in the past four seasons, there is optimism for even more men's soccer success to come once the 2017 campaign rolls around.

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## Women's Soccer

Head Coach Roland Hahn continues to lead the Roosevelt women's soccer team to progress on and off the pitch. Newcomer Anna Agboola had a debut season to remember in fall 2016, as she led the Lakers with eight goals and 19 points. Sophomore dynamo Monica Munoz proved to be a key offensive cog as well, netting six goals and accounting for 15 points. Junior Chelsea Olson directed play in the midfield and continued to show leadership for a young squad. Despite losing all-time leading scorer Jamie Beniac (26 goals) to graduation, Roosevelt returns a large contingent of its scoring along

with goalkeepers Kara Jones and Maria Narcisi, the latter having earned the first CCAC Defensive Player of the Week honors in program history due to her wall-like presence between the posts.

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## Volleyball

There is no doubt that one of the best volleyball players in the CCAC is Roosevelt's Brooke Lee. The rising soon-to-be senior out of Dodgeville, Wisconsin is a 6-foot-1-inch leaping force who averaged 3.45 kills per set last year, ranking second in the conference and accumulating 455 kills to rate among the nation's top 30 offensive producers. Lee, who also plays on the softball team, became the first repeat All-CCAC First Team selection since Vanessa Owusu earned the nod three consecutive years from 2012-14. Along with Lee and Maddy Cysewski, a junior transfer from McHenry County College who garnered All-CCAC Second Team recognition for her first year in green and white, team captain Abby Petroelje will have plenty of talent to guide as the Lakers seek a return to postseason play.

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## Cross Country/ Track & Field

Alena Pacheco nearly became the first Roosevelt runner to return to the NAIA National Cross Country Championships. While the greatest female distance runner in Roosevelt's young team history is off to pursue a teaching career now that her athletic eligibility has ended, Pacheco's young teammates are carrying the torch

that she lit and exhausting themselves in a variety of distance and sprint events. Gina Narcisi is attempting to become the first Roosevelt student-athlete to qualify for the NAIA marathon, while Wuraola Sosina continues to be one of the fastest runners in the CCAC, posting winning finishes throughout the indoor track season. On the men's side, veterans Troy Harness (distance) and Dan Lim (hurdles) wrapped their solid careers while rookies Kwesi Ayekumi and Edwin Renteria gained valuable experience during outdoor and indoor running endeavors.

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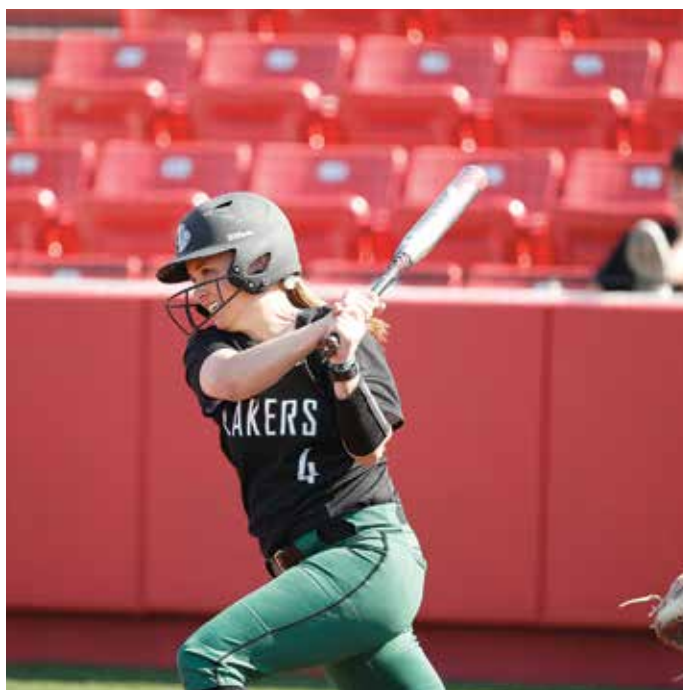
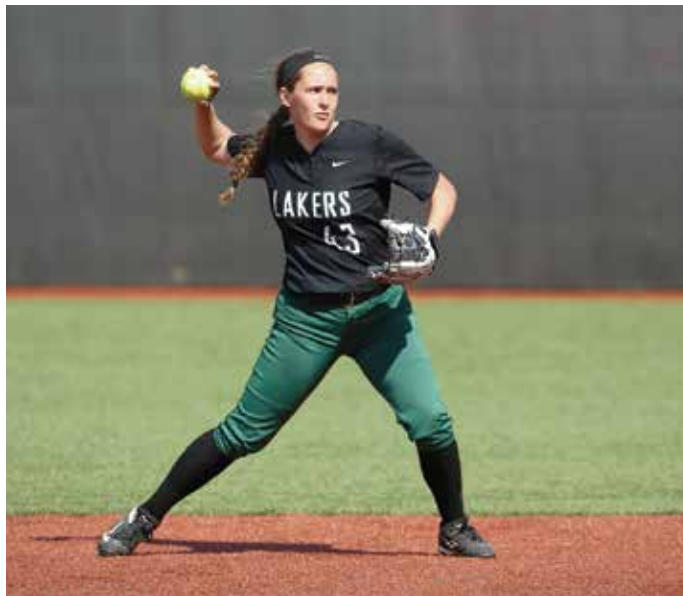
## Tennis

Another new face on the coaching staff for the Lakers was Greg Couch, best known for his journalistic work with the *Chicago Sun-Times*, FOX and Bleacher Report. His passion for the game of tennis is as mighty as his pen, and his experience covering the game at its highest levels — in the press box and his time instructing at local clubs — give Couch a unique edge in working with the Lakers on the court. Twins Michelle and Claudia Beczarski and men's standout Serj Kiyasov conclude their college careers with hopes of leaving a strong foundation for next season.

*Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Anna Agboola, Jose Garcia, Gina Narcisi, Wuraola Sosina, Brooke Lee, Evan Trychta.*



ROOSEVELT ATHLETICS



## Away From Competition

Amid all of the athletic success achieved by the Lakers, their classroom accolades continued to impress. The fall 2016 Athletic Department grade point average was 3.1, the best in program history, and Roosevelt is already on pace to surpass its previous best for Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes in a single year. In addition to excelling academically, Roosevelt's student-athletes continued to prioritize community service, volunteering at a bevy of area non-profits and events.

### Men's Golf

Jake Myers became the first Roosevelt player to finish as the runner-up at the CCAC Championships last year in what was the culmination of a splendid rookie campaign, and this season the second-year standout is poised to lead the deepest group of golfers that Head Coach Peter Pougnet has fielded in his tenure. Veterans Matthew Spahr and Charlton Zimmerman, and newcomers Matthew Heesemann and JT Polinski, join Myers in a potent quintet that has the potential for a record team finish this year and beyond.

### Baseball

The Roosevelt baseball team was on the cusp of its first CCAC tournament bid last year, and the Lakers are looking to break through the door and compete in postseason play for the first time in Head Coach Steve Marchi's seven years as skipper. All-CCAC First Team slugger Colten Trager continued his

rampage against baseballs at the start of the spring, and fellow catcher/infielder Tyler Ward was off to a scorching-hot start at the dish along with junior college transfer Jonah Meidl-Zahorodny. With a pitching staff headlined by ace Matt Dunne and a stout defense led by the likes of shortstop Logan Fleener, second baseman Matt Kozlak and Gold Glove outfielder Andrew Bohlmann, Marchi's RU 9 aim to extend 2017 for as long as possible.

### Softball

A new era began this spring as Roosevelt brought in Aaron Moore, previously the general manager of the two-time defending National Pro Fastpitch champion Chicago Bandits, as the new head softball coach. Moore is a respected mind in the sport, and the architect of successful pro teams on the diamond has shown an equally adept acumen for coaching on the collegiate level in a short amount of time. Moore had the Lakers off to a school-best start, as second-year shortstop Haley Huss and senior outfielder Bethany Hart captained a young team with nine freshmen on the roster. One of those rookies, Taylor Sterkowitz, displayed a powerful bat with exceptional defense at first, while Moore's pitching staff features a rookie core of local talents Brinn Arwood (Wheaton-Warrenville South), Maddy Janssen (Plainfield Central), Caitlyn Santiago (Oak Park and River Forest) and Brianna McCormick (Fenwick).

### Men's Basketball

After becoming the CCAC Freshman of the Year in 2015-16, Jake Ludwig demonstrated his immunity to a sophomore slump. The 6-foot-1-inch guard out of St. Charles, Illinois led the Lakers in scoring for the second consecutive season by pouring in 15 points per game. His team-high of 113 assists ranked fourth in the conference, cementing his status as Roosevelt's go-to guy and an honorable mention All-CCAC selection. Don't mistake his ability for being above the fray when it comes to

doing the little things that win games. "He is one of the toughest guys on the team, always mixing it up, diving on the floor, and taking charges," Head Coach Joe Griffin said. "It's not often you find the high scorer on a team as being one of the grittiest, and that's what makes him special." Ludwig returns with senior big men Joshua Dillingham and Adam Alexander, and a cast of contributors hungry to take Griffin's squad to the next level.

### Women's Basketball

There is no doubt that guard Paige Gallimore is the engine that makes head coach Keisha Newell's Roosevelt women's basketball team go. The three-year starter out of Antioch, Illinois is a 5-foot-7-inch bundle of on-court fury who can drive at will. In a game often dominated by giants, Newell says that Gallimore "is so versatile on the offensive end because she is stronger than most guards and quicker than most post players." The versatile backcourt star, who was named an Honorable Mention All-CCAC player for the first time, stuffed the stat sheet during her junior campaign this past season by leading the Lakers with 18 points per game, ranking fourth in the CCAC and 18th in the country. Gallimore didn't just stop at scoring the rock; she was equally adept at corraling misses off the glass by averaging eight rebounds per contest, ranking sixth in the conference despite being the shortest player among the CCAC's top 10 rebounders. In 10 of Roosevelt's games this season, including a stretch of five consecutive games, Gallimore reached double figures in both points and rebounds for double-double performances, a feat made even tougher when every opposing team knew who the primary weapon was for the Lakers. 

*Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Paige Gallimore, Haley Huss, Bethany Hart, Colten Trager, Jake Ludwig.*



# RU Scholarships

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SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS SHARE  
THEIR STORIES AND APPRECIATION

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by ANNE PUOTINEN

**When you attended Roosevelt University, there is a good chance you received help in the form of scholarship dollars either from an individual who established an endowed scholarship or directly from the University.**

Thanks to the generosity of Roosevelt's alumni and friends, scholarship dollars continue to provide the financial assistance that contributes to students' success.

Our students are committed to the power of education and social justice practices that have defined Roosevelt since its founding in 1945. While they sometimes face challenges as they figure out how to meet financial needs, juggle work schedules, academic workloads and personal lives, these students also are extremely grateful for the financial assistance they receive — as you will see from their comments.

The stories shared here are about scholarships received both from endowed funds, which provide educational dollars in perpetuity, and annual scholarships, which are funds received for immediate use. Endowed scholarships and general scholarship money provide our students with the means to continue toward their goal of joining the ranks of proud Roosevelt University alumni.

Many of our students are the first in their families to go to college. They embrace the University's mission and work very hard to obtain their degrees, and scholarships help them achieve their educational goals and dreams.



### DALAL EL-BARBARAWI

#### Recipient of the Thomas P. Dengler Scholarship

Dalal El-Barbarawi, a biochemistry major and recipient of the Thomas P. Dengler Scholarship, wrote of her Roosevelt experience: “The students and staff here truly believe in social justice and an equal opportunity for all. Better yet, the opportunities I have gained at Roosevelt in just my first semester are ones that I would have never received at any other higher learning institution. My first semester was filled with massive opportunity and amazing professors whom I will never forget!”

El-Barbarawi also wrote about the importance of receiving financial assistance: “This scholarship means a lot to me. With my father’s recent illness and inability to work, I had to take a full-time job to help fund my education. This scholarship helped me fund books and made another semester at Roosevelt possible.”



### SARAH KOVICH

#### Human Innovation Endowed Scholarship

Sarah Kovich, a Chicago College of Performing Arts violin major, wrote: “My anticipated degree is much more than a piece of paper to me. These past four years have been incredibly difficult personally and academically, but I made it this far because of my burning passion for music. Thank you for spending your time and resources to aid those who need it the most; your efforts are deeply appreciated.”

### ALAN ROJAS

#### Recipient of the Milton Goodman Scholarship

Alan Rojas, a political science major and recipient of the Milton Goodman Scholarship, wrote of his future education plans: “I entered RU with a major in political science and just recently, I added a legal studies minor as well. I chose this specific major and minor because of the fact that I hope to one day become an immigration lawyer or a public defender. I believe this would be the most efficient way to give back to the community as well as ensure that social justice is legally extended to all people. I have such a passion for my major.”

He also wrote that his scholarship “was essential in allowing me to pursue a college education. I am the first in my family to go to college. We all sighed a breath of relief when my family heard I was lucky enough to receive the Milton Goodman Scholarship because it helped ease the financial burden.”



### ROBERT RUGAMBA

#### Recipient of the Robert Miner Scholarship for Graduate Students

Robert Rugamba, a graduate computer science student, received funds from the Robert Miner Scholarship for Graduate Students. He wrote that the scholarship has been “a great privilege and I’m grateful for your continued spirit of generosity. I hope to be as generous as you’ve been to me and the many other recipients of this great scholarship.”

**YOU CAN HELP TODAY WITH A GIFT  
TOWARD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH  
THE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.  
PLEASE GIVE ONLINE AT  
[giving.roosevelt.edu](https://giving.roosevelt.edu).**





## A Tale Untold: preserving a family's history

**The erasure from history of the lynching of her great-great-grandfather put Roosevelt University alumna Doria Dee Johnson (BA, '07) on track to become an African American historian and international human rights activist.**



*Above, top to bottom: Doria Johnson (center, arm raised) celebrates unveiling of Anthony Crawford marker in Abbeville, S.C. Bottom: Johnson with Roosevelt professor Erik Gellman (left).*

A decade after graduating with a bachelor's in history, Johnson is now close to completing a PhD dissertation at the University of Wisconsin–Madison on early 20th century African American migration, lynching and the development of the black community in Evanston, Illinois.

While this will no doubt be a major achievement, the PhD will not match the satisfaction she felt last fall when a historical marker was placed in Abbeville, South Carolina on the site of the mob lynching of her great-great-grandfather, Anthony Crawford. The lynching and subsequent seizure of his property took place a century ago.

"It was one of the most important days in my life," Johnson said of the Oct. 24, 2016 ceremony that drew 300 people, including more than 100 of her relatives;

family members of Emmett Till, Ida B. Wells and Malcolm X; and Roosevelt University Associate Professor of History Erik Gellman.

"There's no better feeling than being able to right a wrong and preserve what's right for history," said Johnson, whose journey to bring to light the wrongdoing done to Crawford and his descendants began in 1988, when Johnson looked into her family's genealogy.

A phone call to an Abbeville church, answered by a cousin she did not know she had, started the ball rolling. She immediately traveled to Abbeville for a family reunion, where she met 100 newfound cousins, including some who had heard about the mob lynching and seizure of hundreds of acres of land that Crawford farmed for cotton.

After completing dozens of interviews and reviewing hundreds of documents, including an investigation into the lynching by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Johnson published a piece about her family's story on a genealogy website in 1999. Shortly after, the Associated Press contacted and featured Johnson in its 2001 investigative series "Torn from the Land," which documented 57 cases in which land was stolen from African Americans, including the Crawford family.

Meanwhile, Johnson called members of Congress regarding injustices done to Crawford and his family. She also became active on the public lecture

circuit, telling as many people as would listen to her family's story.

In 2005, the U.S. Senate issued a formal apology to Johnson and the Crawford family. She came to Roosevelt a year later, convinced by scholars she'd met that she could get a fellowship for a PhD to continue her work. First, however, she needed a bachelor's degree.

"I chose Roosevelt because of Harold Washington," Johnson said of Chicago's first African American mayor, who was president of the Class of 1949. "My Roosevelt professors supported me while I was at the University as well as after I graduated and continued on for my PhD," she said.

In 2016, Johnson took a year off from her doctoral work to take a Nelson Mandela International Dialogue fellowship, which elevates conversations about genocide and other human rights abuses to the world stage. As a Mandela fellow, Johnson traveled to South Africa,

Sri Lanka and other parts of the world, where she discussed state-sponsored violence against African Americans in the United States.

She also worked with the nationally recognized nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative to locate the marker in the Abbeville town square where a mob initially accosted Crawford.

"Being there to witness Doria Johnson unveil the historical marker in the town square ... hers was an act of bravery with great significance," Gellman said. "She knows that the South's reckoning with its racially violent past represents a way for its people to build a more democratic and inclusive society in the present."

Johnson, who will receive her PhD later this year, hopes to continue marking lynching sites around the country, with a goal to "emphasize lynchings so they are made part of the narrative in history textbooks."

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**"THERE'S NO BETTER FEELING THAN BEING ABLE TO RIGHT A WRONG AND PRESERVE WHAT'S RIGHT FOR HISTORY,"**

**– DORIA JOHNSON (BA, '07)**

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## **Roosevelt Alumnus Competes for BBC Singer of the World**

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**After eight years as an opera star in the making, Roosevelt University vocal performance alumnus John Chest (MM, '09) is hitting the big time as a finalist in the prestigious BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition. A graduate of Roosevelt's Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) and Chicago Opera Theater's Young Artist Program, Chest is among 20 finalists in the June 11-18 contest that many call "the Olympics of opera singing."**

"It's a moment in my career that will be truly electric," said Chest, who studied at Roosevelt with former CCPA professor and Metropolitan Opera star David Holloway. Chest, 31, has sung professionally since 2011, primarily in Europe.

The Roosevelt graduate credits his CCPA training for preparing him to sing leading roles, including many appearances at Deutsche Opera Berlin where he has starred in *Billy Budd* and other productions.

"Ten years ago I wouldn't have thought I'd be competing at this level," Chest said. "My CCPA professors gave me guidance and encouragement to pursue a career that has me singing today at A-level opera houses."

Holloway, who directs the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Singing Program, called Chest "one of his most talented students."

"He is simply an unusually talented singer and he is also personable and real as a person," Holloway said. "It is no surprise to me that he is enjoying such success."

After graduating from Roosevelt in 2009, Chest joined the Santa Fe Opera as an apprentice singer, and then went on to Munich's Opera Studio, where he gave more than 80 performances. He was also a member of the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco, where he received rave reviews for his role as Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and starred recently as Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* at Opera Philadelphia.



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**"MY CCPA PROFESSORS GAVE ME GUIDANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO PURSUE A CAREER THAT HAS ME SINGING TODAY AT A-LEVEL OPERA HOUSES."**

**– JOHN CHEST (MM, '09)**

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## One of Roosevelt University's First Graduates, Howard Rosenberg Leaves Legal Legacy

Howard Rosenberg stood in line at Navy Pier on a cold February day in 1947, a month after returning from his service in the U.S. Army. He awaited registration for the new (since closed) branch of the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, ready to begin his education.

"After standing there about two hours, I asked one of the assistants whether we were going to get in to register," Rosenberg said. "She said 'I doubt it.'"

Rosenberg queried his brother about other colleges in the area.

"He said 'There's a new college called Roosevelt College. It is a radical place,'" Rosenberg said. He registered for Philosophy 101 and said he "was hooked."

Rosenberg completed his Bachelor of Arts at Roosevelt in 1949 and was among the first graduates of what would become Roosevelt University. He went on to earn his law degree at DePaul University.

After two short years of practicing law in Chicago representing a credit company, Rosenberg decided to move to Denver where he began a lifelong commitment to giving back to the community.

Rosenberg took the lessons of social justice from Roosevelt to heart by founding, with other Denver-based attorneys, the Thursday Night Bar in 1966. Known today as the Metro Volunteer Lawyers, the organization provides pro-bono legal services to

those in great need, a role in which Rosenberg served for decades.

"The inspiration that I got at Roosevelt was able to serve me well as a legal aid attorney," Rosenberg said. Soon after, he made his first gift to Roosevelt, and has continued to give to current RU students to this day.

Rosenberg also went on to teach law as a tenured professor at the University of Denver's Sturtevant College of Law, bringing his compassion for the less fortunate to the next generation of lawyers and social justice advocates. It all culminated in a career he never imagined.

"I thought that Roosevelt really set me on a career path that I probably never would have followed," Rosenberg said.

"Roosevelt kind of saved me by accident and got me to thinking about going to law school, which was a really great decision for me. I really liked being a lawyer and representing low-income people."

Rosenberg is retired and lives with his wife, Kristen, in Denver.



**"ROOSEVELT...GOT ME TO THINKING ABOUT GOING TO LAW SCHOOL, WHICH WAS A REALLY GREAT DECISION FOR ME. I REALLY LIKED BEING A LAWYER AND REPRESENTING LOW-INCOME PEOPLE."**

– HOWARD ROSENBERG (BA, '49)

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## Aide to U.S. Senator Finds Calling for Social Justice at Roosevelt

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**Tamara Jordan came to Roosevelt University in 2010 after returning home from U.S. military service in Afghanistan, where a suicide bombing shook her station base to the core. It took her six years to earn a bachelor's in social justice from Roosevelt, but the 29-year-old military veteran believes her academic experience changed her life.**

"Taking social justice courses at Roosevelt made me realize that a lot of people have struggles. They need someone who can advocate for them," said the 2016 Roosevelt graduate, who today is an aide to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin.

A native of Chicago's Englewood neighborhood, Jordan began her Roosevelt journey as a political science major, but had to drop out in 2012 due to difficulties in adjusting to life outside the military. After a three-year hiatus, she returned to the University in 2015 and changed her major.

"At its best, the social justice major at Roosevelt helps students put personal experience in a social perspective and supports them in developing skills for making change for the better," said June Lapidus, associate professor

of economics and coordinator of Roosevelt's Social Justice Program.

As a Roosevelt student, Jordan interned at the Greater Chicagoland Food Depository, helping veterans receive benefits, and at the Jesse Brown Medical Center. From there, she landed an internship at Durbin's Chicago office that became a full-time job shortly after she graduated in 2016.

"Social justice has helped me to find different ways to really reach people, and not just to shut the door on their needs," said Jordan, who handles issues and calls related to veterans for 13 counties in northern Illinois.

Recently, she began mentoring at-risk youths as a volunteer with the not-for-profit Urban Warriors program on Chicago's South Side. She also counsels veterans returning from assignments with the National Guard through the Warrior-to-Warrior Program. Her goal is to get a master's degree and climb the career ladder in public policy or politics.

"I loved my Roosevelt experience," she said. "It's something that developed my focus and helped make my life more meaningful."



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**"TAKING SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSES AT ROOSEVELT MADE ME REALIZE THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE STRUGGLES. THEY NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN ADVOCATE FOR THEM."**

— TAMARA JORDAN (BA, '16)  
*Aide to Sen. Dick Durbin*

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**Like keeping up with your alma mater? Want to learn more about new and upcoming alumni events in your area?**

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates on Roosevelt alumni news and happenings on campus. We'll not only be featuring news, networking opportunities and reunion events, but also memorable photos and stories from your days at Roosevelt. So give us a like, follow or tweet — connecting with your Roosevelt alumni network has never been easier. **Make sure to use the hashtag #LifelongLaker when sharing your memories with us.**





Above, top to bottom:  
Courtney Reed,  
Mandy Modic, Scott  
Stangland, John  
Michael Finley,  
Stephane Duret

## CCPA Takes On the Great White Way

Since its founding, Roosevelt University has produced hundreds of theater professionals, including alumni who are Broadway stars today.

**Ray Frewen**, assistant director of Roosevelt's Theatre Conservatory, credits the Chicago College of Performing Arts' (CCPA) seasoned faculty, famed alumni, historically artistic downtown Chicago location and audition process for attracting highly talented student prospects.

This year, CCPA has auditioned 600 prospective students for next year's program — 70 students have been chosen to take part in the three majors covering the program. Musical theatre is one of the majors that has successfully led its graduates from the classroom to the Broadway stage.

**"YOU FEEL SAFE TO DO THIS VULNERABLE WORK IN FRONT OF YOUR PEERS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER. YOU'RE ABLE TO HAVE THAT CLOSENESS TO YOUR PROFESSORS, WHERE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ALL WORKING TOGETHER."**

— MANDY MODIC (BFA, '11)

Graduates **Courtney Reed, Stephane Duret, Scott Stangland** and **John Michael Finley** all currently appear in award-winning Broadway productions.

Reed (BFA, '06) stars as Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin The Musical*. From the musical's Seattle debut to its current Broadway run, Reed's Jasmine has appeared in regional and international productions for six consecutive years.

Duret, Stangland and Finley have nearly two dozen musical theater credits among them. Last year, Duret joined the Tony Award-winning show, *Kinky Boots*. The 2007 graduate's additional credits include *Sweet Charity*, *Cabaret*, *Ragtime* and *Aida*.

In 2016, Stangland made his Broadway debut as Pierre, a role originated by recording artist Josh Groban, in *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. Stangland earned his MFA in 2005 and has since had roles in the Broadway hit, *Once*; on NBC shows *Chicago Fire* and *Crisis*; and in the films *Contagion* and *The End of the Tour*.

Prior to receiving his BFA in 2013, Finley performed in eight stage productions. Two years after graduating, Finley landed roles in *Les Misérables* and *The Book of Mormon* — in the latter, he currently appears as Elder Cunningham.

Frewen described Finley's *Les Misérables* performance as the most moving experience of his life. "I just burst into tears and couldn't talk when I saw John," Frewen said. "I've worked [in production] on *Les Mis* for years, but it's very moving seeing one of your kids doing it onstage."

**Mandy Modic** (BFA, '11) defined CCPA's family dynamic as being an enjoyable part of her program experience. "You feel safe to do this vulnerable work in front of your peers, because you know everything about each other," Modic said. "You're able to have that closeness to your professors, where you feel like you're all working together."

Modic has appeared in over a dozen musicals, two network television shows and her first feature-length film, *When the Lights Go Out*, was released late last year.

While talent is the common thread in all of the above-mentioned alumni, Frewen said the key to success goes beyond talent. "It's about if you are professional and a good person to work with," Frewen said. "Control what you can control. Your talent will get you in the door, but professionalism will get you to the second job, and then the next."



## FROM STAGE TO TELEVISION TO FILM, THESE FIVE MUSICAL THEATRE ALUMNI HAVE TAKEN THEIR TRAINING AT ROOSEVELT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



### MERLE DANDRIDGE (BFA, '98)

With a 20-year-plus career — including work in film, television, video game animation and on stage — Merle Dandridge has graced the sets of four films and more than 20 TV shows. The Okinawa, Japan born actress and singer's five Broadway appearances include roles in *Spamalot*, *Rent* and *Aida*. Dandridge's voice work can also be heard in close to a dozen video games. Currently, Dandridge can be seen starring alongside Oprah Winfrey and Lynn Whitfield in OWN TV's hit series, *Greenleaf*.

### TRAVIS TAYLOR (BFA, '10)

No stranger to the regional stage, Travis Taylor has performed in several theatrical productions, including *Les Misérables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Camelot* and *Into the Woods*. Taylor has appeared on television; and, in 2013, starred as the Hairdresser in the North American Broadway tour of *Phantom of the Opera* — whose national run continues throughout this year.



### DAMON GILLESPIE ('12-'14)

TV and stage actor Damon Gillespie hit the ground running after his enrollment in the Musical Theatre Program. In mid-2014, Gillespie joined the ensemble cast of *Newsies* on Broadway. The following year, the Tennessee native appeared on Comedy Central's *Inside Amy Schumer*. In 2016, he made it back to the stage in the ensemble cast of *Aladdin The Musical*. This year, Gillespie will appear in the TV movie adaptation of the novel, *Drama High*, which costars Rosie Perez and Marley Shelton.

### TIFFANY TATREAU (BFA, '15)

Tiffany Tatreau's role of Ocean Rosenberg in *Ride the Cyclone* has taken her from the Chicago Shakespeare Theater to the off-Broadway MCC Theater. Lending her voice to a variety of regional stage productions — such as *Sister Act*, *Mamma Mia*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Spring Awakening* — the California native was selected as one of *Chicago Tribune's* "Hot New Faces of Chicago Theater 2016."



### COLE DOMAN (BFA, '15)

Already a stage actor in several regional productions before completing his degree, Cole Doman's roles in TV, film and on stage have continued to pour in, even after graduation. In the past three years, Doman has appeared in countless stage productions at the renowned Drury Lane Theater. The Philadelphia native has also landed roles on NBC's *Chicago Fire*, Showtime's *Shameless* and ABC's *Modern Family*. Doman made his film debut in the drama, *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*, which won the Silver Q Hugo Award at the Chicago International Film Festival. Doman's lead role as Henry Gamble was chosen as one of the "Best Breakthrough Performances of 2016" by the online movie publication, The Film Stage.

by PETER PIATKOWSKI

## WhereRU?

## 1960s

CCPA alumnus **ED GLAB (BA, '65)** currently lectures on energy and global communications, having served as a member of the graduate faculty and as director of the Global Energy and Sustainability Forum in the School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University. Glab, a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar and professor, is a former Exxon Mobil executive, where he worked on oil and gas projects in various parts of the world for more than 25 years.

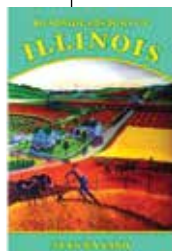
## 1970s

WBZ recently interviewed **BARRY KRITZBERG (MA, '71)** about Joseph Pulitzer in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize. After



36 years with Morgan Park Academy, Kritzberg has written a multitude of books, including historical novels, short stories, non-fiction, and a mystery series. Some of the titles include the Kelly O'Quinn mystery series, works on Henry Thoreau, and historical fiction novel *QWERTYUIOP Spells DANGER*, set in Chicago circa 1908-17.

Accomplished Chicago author **STAN "TEX" BANASH (MA, '72)** spoke to the Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society about

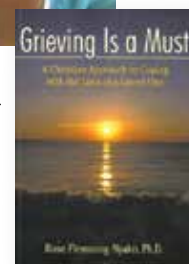


his book *Roadside History of Illinois*. The book details Illinois' diverse history framed by the evolution of the state's highways and byways.

performed with Sam Singleton at the How Art Thou Jazz Lounge and Tapas Bar in Charleston, South Carolina. An important jazz figure, Rivers has had a relationship with Chicago's jazz scene since the 1960s and has worked with other music luminaries such as Quincy Jones, Etta James and B.B. King.

Roosevelt University alumna **ROSE FLEMMING-NYAKO, PHD (MA, '79)**

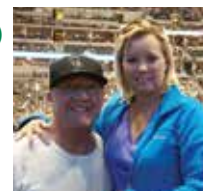
recently published a book, *Grieving Is a Must: A Christian Approach to Coping with the Loss of a Loved One*. A mental health professional for more than 35 years, Flemming-Nyako earned a doctorate in Christian counseling from Newburgh Theological Seminary and a BS in Psychiatric Nursing from Rush University School of Nursing, along with a Master of Arts in Guidance Counseling at Roosevelt University.



## 1980s

**JOE TINAGLIA (MBA, '88)**

recently married and moved to Colorado. He is a 1988 graduate of the MBA program.



## 1990s

ARC of Rockland, a non-profit organization that works with and supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, announced **RACHEL SHEMESH (MA, '94)** as its managing director of residential services. With a master's in clinical psychology from Roosevelt, Shemesh is also a psychology graduate of the University of Buffalo. She previously served as executive director of New Concepts for Living, an agency based in New Jersey.



**FRANCES ALTMAN (MS, '95)**

wrote her ninth book for young readers, *Escape to Freedom*. Altman has published other books, including *Spirit Dog* and *Mister Umbrella Man: Stories About Inventions*.

**DR. KEITH WASHINGTON (BGS, '96; MS, '09)**

published a new book, *Caregiving Full-Time and Working Full-Time: Managing Dual Roles and Responsibilities*, which helps readers understand and manage caring full-time for a loved one suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and other health issues



requiring caregiving. Washington is a global technology leader for the Nielsen Company's Global Incident Management team. He also volunteers at the West Suburban Food Pantry and teaches technology courses at his local church. In addition to his bachelor's in computer science and master's in information systems from Roosevelt, Washington has a doctoral degree in information technology and organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

**REBECCA COFINAS (MA, '97)**, CEO and founder of AristaMD, was listed by Becker's Health IT & CIO Review as one of 17 female health IT company CEOs to know. She was recognized for "transforming the healthcare industry with technologies designed to enhance efficiency, quality and access to care." Along with a master's in public health from Roosevelt, Cofinas has a bachelor's degree in English language and literature/letters from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**2000s****DANIELLE LANGFORD (BFS, '03)**, author, radio

host and professional speaker, published her first book *Letters for My Son*. Langford is also founder of Pinkempower.com, a resource for women and teen girls that promotes a "healthy sense of self for every woman and teen girl who has ever questioned her self-worth."



CCPA alumna **ERICKA RATCLIFF (BFA, '04)** is one of seven new members of the House Theatre of Chicago. She has performed in various productions including *The Nutcracker*, and has worked with various theatre companies in Chicago including Lookingglass, Victory Gardens, Second City, and Steppenwolf theatres.

**CORRINE PIEROG (MBA, '05)** ran against incumbent Jim Oberweis for Illinois State Senate in 2016. She ran unopposed in the Democratic primary, but lost to Oberweis in the general election. This was Pierog's second time running for public office.

**2010s****DEE ATKINS (MSJ, '10)**

joined Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare as its new chief communications and development officer. She has an accomplished career of more than 15 years in the nonprofit sector in fundraising, corporate social responsibility, volunteer management, and community outreach. Before Trilogy, Atkins worked with Mercy Home for Boys & Girls as director of corporate & volunteer relations. She also worked for 17 years at Navy Pier on special events, community outreach initiatives and volunteer recruitment.



**LIZZIE G (MS, '15)**, head of Lizzie G Entertainment, LLC, works to provide students, organizations and schools unique



programming in arts, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and music education.

Lizzie G is currently embarking on a school tour intended to inspire youth nationwide with a message of anti-bullying, keeping peace and staying united. She recently released her fourth album, *Level Up*, featuring 18 inspirational tracks. Her work has helped to inspire creativity and critical thinking that increases civic engagement in students for our world today. She has a master's in integrated marketing communication from Roosevelt, and is a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority member.

**Where RU? We'd love to hear what you've been up to. Please send us your photo and an update!**

**EMAIL:** [alum@roosevelt.edu](mailto:alum@roosevelt.edu)

**MAIL:** OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS  
ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY  
430 S. MICHIGAN AVE, AUD 818  
CHICAGO, IL 60605

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

by BARBARA MCCAIN

## 1940s

**ALICE CREANZA (BA, '43; MA, '61)** of Chicago died Sept. 7, 2016.

**LOIS DOCURRO (BM, '45)** of Park Ridge, Ill., died Nov. 25, 2016. She made her operatic debut at Italy's Verona Arena and frequently guest-starred on WGN's Artist Showcase.

**T. RICHARD FLAHERTY (BA, '48)** of Los Angeles died April 9, 2017. A social worker for more than 30 years specializing in child welfare, he was also an accomplished musician, folk singer and avid rock hound, mastering the art of lapidary.

**VERNA JOHNSON (BM, '48)** of Chicago died Sept. 19, 2016. She was a Chicago Public School teacher for more than 41 years. She spent most of her life supporting organizations such as the NAACP, DuSable Museum of African American History and the Burnside Block Club, where she served as president.

**GEORGE RIMNAC (BS, '49)** of Glenview, Ill., died Oct. 8, 2016. A prolific food chemist, Rimnac led a team that created salad dressings and sauces for Kraft Foods.

## 1950s

**ROBERT AUERBACH (BA, '50; MA, '64)** of Austin, Texas died Jan. 20, 2017. Auerbach served as a member of the Illinois National Guard, and was a lifelong economist in academia and government.

**MARY KENNEDY (BA, '51)** of Norfolk, Va., died Nov. 12, 2016. Kennedy was the first in her family to receive a college degree. She was active in the First Unitarian-Universalist Church.

**RICHARD CIARROCHI (BSC, '52)** of Libertyville, Ill., died Jan. 25, 2017. He traveled the world working for U.S. Electric Motor and Marathon Electric until he retired.

**SHELDON EDELMAN (BS, '52; MA, '56)** of Manhattan, Kan., died Nov. 15, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

**JACK HANSEN (MM, '52)** of Hammond, Ind., died Feb. 8, 2017. He was an accomplished concert pianist who taught for the Chicago Public Schools.

**NORMAN BAKALL (BA, '56)** of Chicago died Nov. 16, 2016. He served more than 30 years in education as a teacher, assistant principal and school programmer.

**SANDRA BOXER (BA, '57)** of San Luis Obispo, Calif., died Jan. 20, 2017. She taught fourth grade until her retirement in 1990. Boxer was a member the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

**NORMAN OLSON (BSC, '57)** of Orland Park, Ill., died Dec. 25, 2016. Olson served in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years, and was founder of Norman G. Olson Insurance Agency, Inc.

**GEORGE ALEXOPOULOS (BA, '58)** of Glenview, Ill., died Feb. 12, 2017. He taught physics, mathematics, computer science and electronics. Alexopoulos also served as chairman of the Academic Committee for the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

**ANGELO MAGNAVITE (BA, '59; MA, '66)** of Lombard, Ill., died Feb. 11, 2016.

## 1960s

**MELVYN SCHNEIDER (BA, '60)** of Tarzana, Calif., died Oct. 17, 2016. He had an extensive career spanning more than 55 years as a CPA in both Chicago and California.

**RUSSELL DAEHLER (BS, '61)** of Ormond Beach, Fla., died Aug. 10, 2016.

**CHARLES HILDRETH (MM, '61; MA, '77)** of Evansville, Ind., died Dec. 23, 2016. Hildreth played in the Evansville Philharmonic, was active in the R.O.T.C. and entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer. He retired as a guidance counselor.

**MORRIS BANNING (BSBA, '62)** of Merrillville, Ind., died Dec. 7, 2016. He was a U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Korean War. Banning retired from public accounting in 1996.

**GAIL RUBIN (BA, '62)** of Birmingham, Ala., died Feb. 15, 2017. She worked professionally for various companies throughout her career, ultimately retiring as the President of ProCreations Publishing Co.

**FENTRESS BARRY (BA, '63)** of Glenview, Ill., died Nov. 16, 2016. He worked as a stockbroker and financial advisor for more than three decades.

**SEPPO AARNOS (MA, '64)** of North Richland Hills, Texas, died Oct. 2, 2016. He was a prolific working artist who left a legacy of public outdoor sculptures in the Chicago area. One of his most famous sculptures is the "TCU Horned Frog," which was chosen as one of the "most loved statues on college campuses."

**CARLIE SCHNABL (MM, '64)** of Wilmette, Ill., died in January 2015.

**PAUL MORZORATI (MA, '64)** of Crest Hill, Ill., died Nov. 16, 2016. He spent his career at Joliet Township High School as a teacher, coach and athletic director. Morzorati was inducted into the Joliet Township Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

**MARTHA DERDERIAN (MA, '65)** of Waukegan, Wis., died Dec. 13, 2016. She taught for 30 years at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School and retired from Benny Junior High School.

**DR. JOHN MEGLEY (MBA, '65)** of Germantown, Tenn., died Nov. 8, 2016. Megley worked for *Encyclopedia Americana* as an editor and at Abbott Laboratories as a cancer researcher in the Chicago area. He was a labor arbitrator listed with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

**PENNY KAHAN (BA, '66)** of Chicago died in February 2017. She worked in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and founded her own law firm in 1983. Kahan was elected a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and the American Bar Association.

**SHELDON ROBBINS (BSBA, '66)** of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Jan. 9, 2017. Robbins began his career as a CPA and consultant for Arthur Young in Chicago in 1966. He joined the Madison Square Garden's Chicago Operations as controller in 1972, which included the Arlington Park Race Track. After his retirement from Arlington, he operated as a consultant, entrepreneur and civic leader.

**DELMA DAMOS (MA, '69)** of North Henderson, Ill., died Feb. 20, 2017. Damos taught in Alpha, Waukegan and Galesburg, Illinois, where she retired as principal of Churchill Junior High School.

**THOMAS KATSOULIS (BSBA, '69)** of Naples, Fla., died Oct. 12, 2016. He was a lifelong entrepreneur, founder and former owner of Great Northern Wire and Cable.

**JILL ROHDE (MA, '69)** of Chicago died Nov. 29, 2016. She was a long-time noted restaurant critic for *Chicago Magazine*, and was a teacher and political activist.

## 1970s

**DAVID BOOR (BSBA, '74)** of Naperville, Ill., died Feb. 2, 2017. He spent his career as a safety consultant for various insurance companies. Boor coached Little League and was an active member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights.

**RAUL ESQUIVEL (BSBA, '74)** of Richton Park, Ill., died in November 2016. He was the assistant director of the Homelessness Prevention Call Center for Catholic Charities. He retired from People's Gas Company after 30 years of service.

**SIMONETTA O'NEAL (MA, '74)** of Tallahassee, Fla., died Sept. 26, 2016. O'Neal was a Chicago Public School teacher for more than 30 years and a member of the African American Methodist Church for more than 70 years.

**JOHN REMAR (BGS, '74)** of Chicago died Jan. 4, 2017. He joined the U.S. Navy Reserve and was recalled to active duty in 1954. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 1995 after 42 years of service to his country.

**LORRAINE PHILLIPS (BGS, '74)** of Chicago died in February 2017. She was a former educator and restaurateur.

**FRANK GARRETT, JR. (BGS, '76)** of Costa Mesa, Calif., died Nov. 28, 2016.

**MICHAEL MOULTON (BS, '77)** of Zion, Ill., died Dec. 16, 2016. Moulton worked as an engineer for 16 years at Abbott Laboratories. He served on the North Chicago Elementary School Board for seven years and taught engineering graphics for six years at College of Lake County.

**KEITH ZAWILA (BGS, '77)** of Mundelein, Ill., died Nov. 7, 2016. He was a computer systems professional working for Washington National Conesco and Health Care Services Corporation. His passion was motorcycle safety, working during the summer for Chicago Harley Davidson and the Illinois Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

**THOMAS MASTICK (BSBA, '78)** of Raleigh, N.C., died Nov. 3, 2016. He worked in biotechnology, computer engineering and tax accounting. Mastick also worked as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and did justice work in Chile.

**ALMA SARGIS (BGS, '79)** of Chicago died Jan. 24, 2017. A talented singer and dancer including performing on roller skates, Sargis spent the majority of her career as an administrative professional in the City of Chicago Department of Revenue.

**ROCCO RENDA (MSA, '79)** of Huntley, Ill., died Oct. 7, 2016.



## 1980s

**LAWRENCE LANGOWSKI (MA, '81)** of Chicago died Jan. 19, 2017. He was a U.S. military veteran.

**JOSEPHINE MCCORD (BGS, '84)** of Chicago died in December 2016. A lifelong Chicagoan, she was a civil rights activist who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his Chicago campaign. McCord was a pastoral associate for more than 20 years at St. Malachy.

**LILLIAN FAIR (MA, '87)** of Palatine, Ill., died in December 2016. Her career ranged from nursing and teaching to health care administration. Fair's accomplishments included serving as president of the Northwest Continuity of Care State Board of Directors. She also was a licensed nursing home administrator.

## 1990s

**DAVID HUGHES (MBA, '90)** of Munster, Ind., died Sept. 25, 2016. He had a long career in truck driving all over the country. Hughes was an avid swimmer and spent much of his free time distance running for charities.

**JACK MAYER (MGS, '90)** of Sawyer, Mich., died Jan. 24, 2017. Mayer taught for several years at both Harlem and Rich high schools. After retirement, he taught music and art, and directed plays and musicals.

**CAROLYN MCREYNOLDS BLOCHOWIAK (MA, '94)** of Milwaukee died Oct. 16, 2016. She began her career in advertising as a copywriter, after which she became a journalist and wrote for the magazine *Exclusively Yours* as a style columnist.

**JOANN BENIGHT (MA, '99)** of Milwaukee died Sept. 16, 2016. She was a children's book author and former schoolteacher.

**JOHN HIFFMAN (BA, '99)** of Lake Geneva, Wis., died Dec. 22, 2016. He had a career in hospitality management in Chicago.

## 2000s

**BROCK HANNA (BA, '00)** of Riverwoods, Ill., died Nov. 22, 2016.

**DONNA RETTER (MA, '00)** of Urbana, Ill., died Jan. 3, 2017. Retter held several jobs in the field of counseling and later focused on music. She taught piano for many years and most recently was involved in the Sing to Live Community Chorus as a singer and assistant conductor.

**EMILY SLIVINSKI (BA, '04)** of Libertyville, Ill., died Jan. 27, 2017.

**JON KRENEK (BA, '05)** of St. Anne, Ill., died Nov. 15, 2016. Krennek was a reporter for the *Kankakee Daily Journal*.

## 2010s

**CAROLYN RUSH (BPS, '12)** of Chicago died March 13, 2017. She was an advocate for women's causes, most recently health and heart issues. Rush was a political advisor to her husband, U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush (BGS, '74), and was committed to all minority issues.

**DANNY DONATELLI (BPS, '14)** of Mount Prospect, Ill., died Dec. 1, 2016. He worked in the hospitality industry.

## Roosevelt Student

**ASHANTI MCCALL (BA, '16)** died on Dec. 7, 2016. A popular and extremely involved student, McCall looked forward to graduating from Roosevelt on Dec. 16, 2016. A peer mentor, president of the Black Student Union and a first-generation college student, she was a recipient of Roosevelt's Matthew Freeman Social Justice Award. The University awarded McCall's diploma to her brother and mother, who received a standing ovation as they walked across the Auditorium Theatre stage during Commencement. Roosevelt community members celebrated McCall's life during memorial services at the Chicago Campus and at St. Sabina Catholic Church in Chicago, where McCall was a parishioner and worked as a secretary.

**TO DONATE IN ASHANTI MCCALL'S MEMORY FOR ROOSEVELT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS, CONTACT:**  
**JAN PARKIN** *Associate Vice President, Institutional Advancement*  
**EMAIL:** [jparkin01@roosevelt.edu](mailto:jparkin01@roosevelt.edu)

## Roosevelt Trustees

**BRUCE BACHMANN**, a long-time Roosevelt University Board of Trustees member, died on March 22, 2017 at his home in Highland Park, Ill. A dedicated supporter of the University, Bachmann served on the Board of Trustees from 2004-2016. He had a long history as a Chicago philanthropist, including giving to the University. President of Chicago real estate firm Bachmann Associates, Ltd., Bachmann was a founding member of the University's real estate advisory board, and gave generously to the Marshall Bennett Institute's annual real estate gala. He was also a founding member of the Polk Brothers Foundation, which has had a relationship with Roosevelt for many years. Among initiatives Bachmann supported through Polk were Roosevelt scholarships for graduates of Chicago's Social Justice High School.

**AL GOLIN**, a 1950 graduate and dedicated supporter of the University, died on April 8, 2017. Golin served as a member of Roosevelt's Board of Trustees for 16 years, and was the 2005 recipient of the University's Distinguished Service Award. A Chicago native, Golin was a pioneer of modern communications, whose phone call to McDonald's founder Ray Kroc led to his 60-year relationship with the fast food giant. Golin's keen insight for branding and civic engagement that made him an integral asset to McDonald's and his Chicago-based firm. In 2015, Golin was inducted into the PR Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, June Golin, their three children, six grandchildren and great-grandson.

**LOUIS S. KAHNWEILER**, a pioneering industrial park developer, joined Roosevelt University's Board of Trustees in 1986, and served as one of the board's life trustees from 2006 until his death at 97 years of age on Feb. 26, 2017. Kahnweiler was co-founder of one of the nation's leading commercial-industrial real estate firms, Bennett & Kahnweiler, which developed industrial parks near metropolitan airports, including the nation's largest Centex Industrial Park in Elk Grove Village, Ill. A significant Roosevelt donor, Kahnweiler helped the University acquire the Schaumburg Campus and lease floors at the Gage Building, 18 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

# 2016 Fiscal Report

Almost 80 percent of the University's student enrollment for the 2015 fall term was composed of residents from the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Roosevelt's Chicago Campus provided housing for 737 students in the Wabash Building and the University Center of Chicago. The numbers of traditional-age (18-to-24-year-old) students have grown to represent 66 percent of all University undergraduates in 2015, compared with 27 percent in 1997 and 54 percent in 2007. Total full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment decreased from 4,814 in fall 2014 to 4,285 in 2015.

Financial pressures continued for the University in FY2016 amid consecutive years of enrollment decline. Net tuition revenues declined in FY2016 to \$86.3 million from \$95.3 million in FY2015. The University posted an operating deficit of \$4.9 million in FY2016. Despite the financial pressure, Roosevelt University maintains a strong liquidity position and adequate debt service coverage. The University is focused on initiatives key to long-term success, and the goal is to ensure the building of a stronger Roosevelt by creating a solid financial foundation for the future.

This commitment calls for increasing enrollment, and reducing operating expenses and borrowing costs. The University is investing in new educational programs, career services, internship opportunities, and utilizing its most recent \$25 million donation for financial aid and scholarships.

The University's endowment portfolio, in general, is in large funds with allocations of domestic and international equities, mutual funds, fixed income, real estate, commodities and cash. Market recoveries have improved the University's investment portfolio. The balance of the endowment as of Aug. 31, 2016 was \$84 million. For the 12-month period ending Aug. 31, 2016, the University reported an investment return of 10 percent on its endowment.

The financial information presented here represents the consolidated results of the University, the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University and Roosevelt University Development Corporation.

<b>Operating Revenue</b> <i>(in thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Student Tuition and Fees, Net	\$86,337	\$95,356	\$95,724
Local, State, Federal and grants	3,379	3,910	3,912
Private Gifts, Grants and Contracts	6,991	5,290	6,040
Auxiliary Income	9,292	11,966	12,168
Auditorium Theatre, Net	(92)	(1,117)	(750)
Investment Income	8,422	4,308	4,587
Other Income	3,463	2,174	2,176
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$117,792</u></b>	<b><u>\$121,887</u></b>	<b><u>\$123,857</u></b>

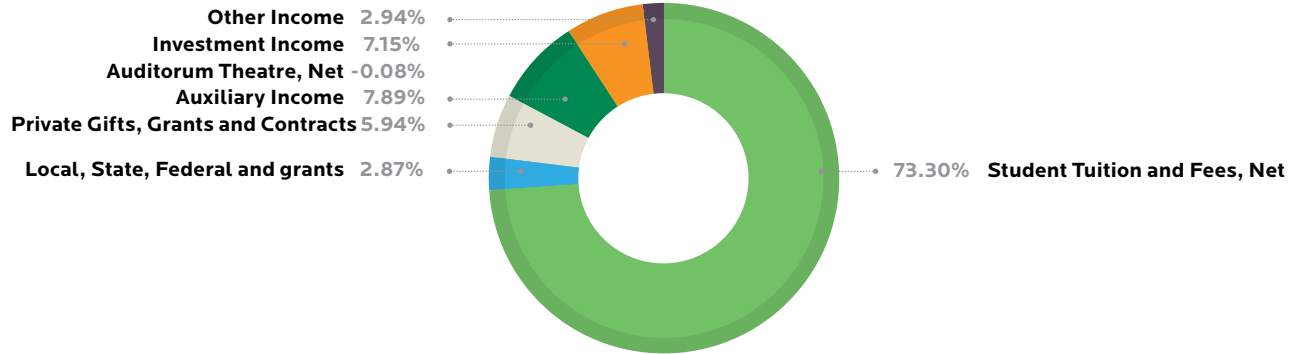
<b>Operating Expenses</b> (Education & General) <i>(in thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Instruction	\$46,093	\$48,780	\$49,378
Research	1,003	952	732
Public Service	1,460	1,262	1,249
Academic Support	13,106	14,811	14,621
Student Support	18,704	17,285	18,329
Institutional Support	27,500	27,206	27,009
<b>Total educational and general expenses</b>	<b><u>\$107,866</u></b>	<b><u>\$110,296</u></b>	<b><u>\$111,318</u></b>
Auxiliary Enterprises	12,503	13,431	13,505
Auditorium Theatre	2,278	2,179	2,133
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$122,647</u></b>	<b><u>\$125,906</u></b>	<b><u>\$126,956</u></b>

<b>Assets</b> <i>(in thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$31,635	\$27,093	\$38,047
Short-Term Investments	15,117	14,259	4,023
Bond Funds Held in Trust	14,303	13,403	14,807
Accounts Receivable, Net	21,102	31,851	32,446
Other Assets	20,893	22,971	24,122
Long-Term Investments	83,722	82,661	92,614
Funds Held in Trust	708	709	786
Loans Receivable	12,297	12,297	12,297
Pledges, Net	2,323	2,323	3,211
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	235,049	241,696	248,677
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$437,149</u></b>	<b><u>\$449,263</u></b>	<b><u>\$471,030</u></b>

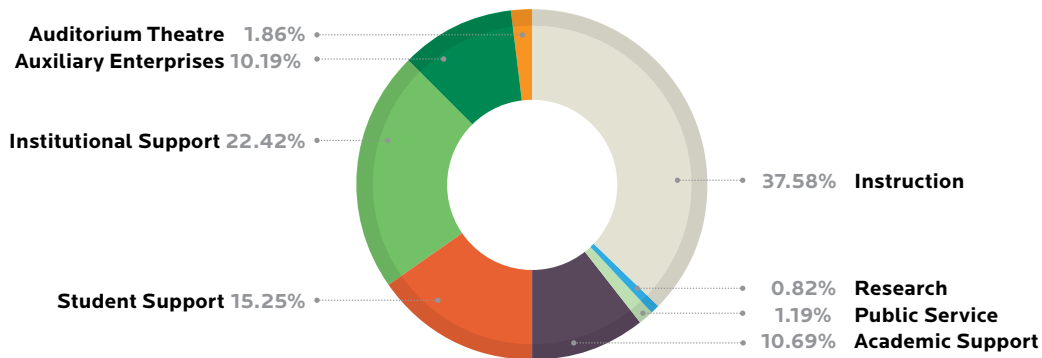
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b> <i>(in thousands)</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$3,752	\$2,902	\$2,839
Accrued Expenses	3,892	4,092	6,637
Accrued Payroll	1,659	1,380	1,126
Student Deposits	544	651	610
Refundable Advances	1,801	2,190	2,452
Others	58,555	64,712	69,938
Loan Payable	14,914	14,914	14,914
Bonds Payable	222,582	224,477	226,286
Total Liabilities	\$307,699	\$315,318	\$324,802
Net Assets	\$129,450	\$133,945	\$146,228
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$437,149</u></b>	<b><u>\$449,263</u></b>	<b><u>\$471,030</u></b>



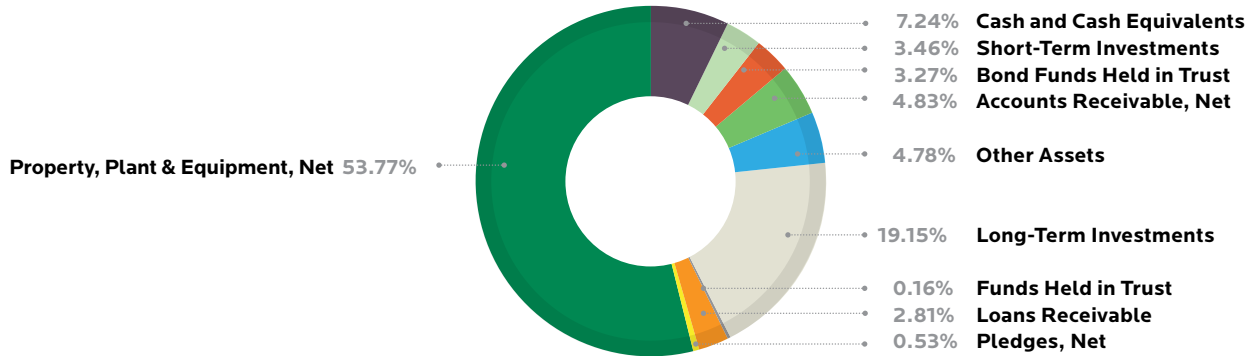
### 2016 Consolidated Operating Revenue



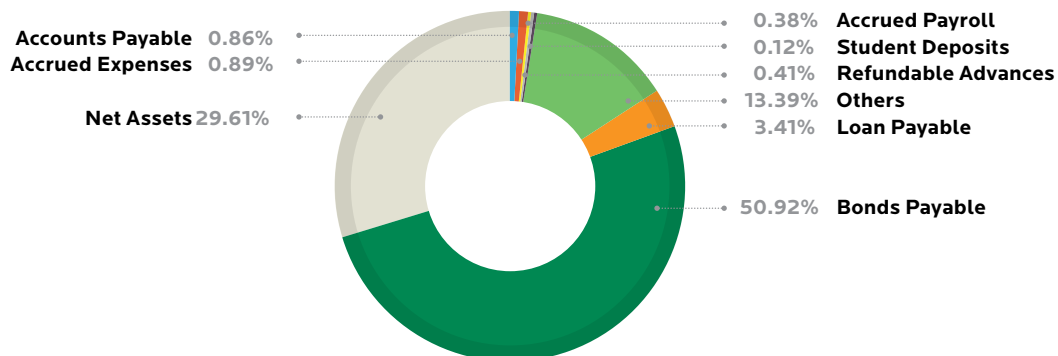
### 2016 Operating Expenses



### 2016 Consolidated Statements of Financial Position



### 2016 Consolidated Total Liabilities and Net Assets



# Roosevelt University Receives Largest Gift in its History

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ROOSEVELT HAS RECEIVED A \$25 MILLION GIFT, THE LARGEST IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY, FROM ONE OF ITS FIRST DONORS. THE DONATION COMES FROM THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ROSALINE COHN, WHO DIED IN 2010 AT THE AGE OF 97.

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Rosaline's husband, Jacob — one of the first contributors to Roosevelt with a \$200 gift just three months after the new college opened — came to the United States as an immigrant in the early 20th century. He was 19 years old when he began selling and delivering fresh coffee to restaurants by horse and buggy in 1915. By the late 1930s, he had built a successful business called Continental Coffee Company. His sons, Alvin and Robert, expanded the company to include grocery products and frozen foods after their father's death in 1968. The company was renamed CFS Continental in 1970, when it went public. Fourteen years later, CFS Continental was sold to A.E. Staley for \$353 million.

Rosaline Cohn established the Jacob and Rosaline Cohn Scholarship Fund at Roosevelt in December 1982, which continues to support both undergraduate and graduate students. The gift will supplement the endowed fund, which will allow Roosevelt to earmark approximately \$1.2 million annually for Roosevelt students enrolled in a variety of disciplines.

**"I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE AREAS OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE WHICH WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE YOUNGER AND OLDER GENERATIONS — NOT IN THE ABSTRACT — BUT IN A POSITIVE AND PRACTICAL WAY."**

**— ROSALINE COHN**

*Co-founder, Jacob and Rosaline Cohn Scholarship Fund*

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In a letter written in 1984, Rosaline wrote, "I am interested in people, rather than causes. I would like to contribute to the areas of education and science which will help to improve the quality of life for the younger and older generations — not in the abstract — but in a positive and practical way."

What began as a \$200 gift to an upstart University has become a transformational investment in that University's future. **R**