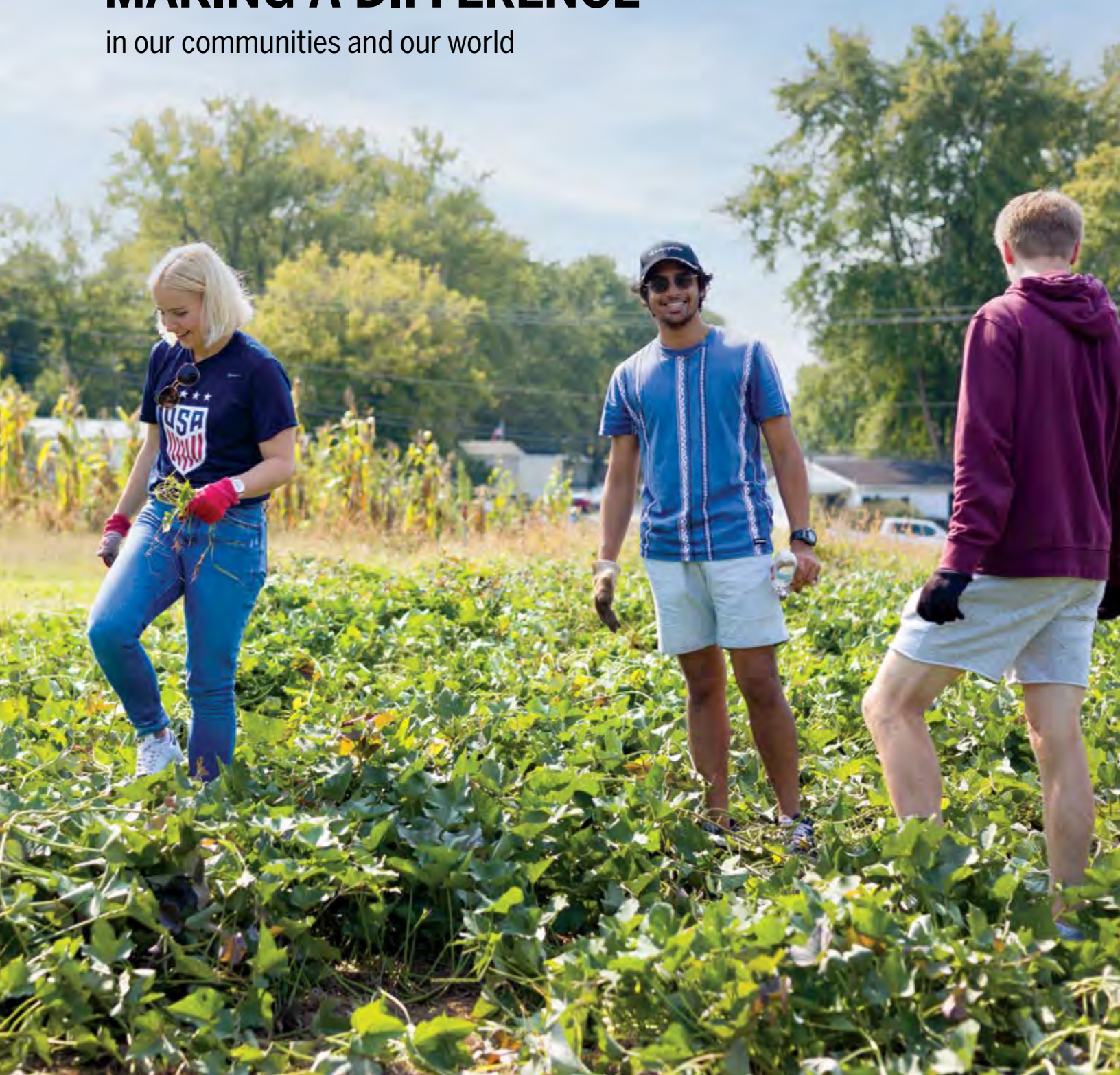


O'Neill *Onward*

O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ALUMNI MAGAZINE **FALL 2023**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

in our communities and our world



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MAKES A DIFFERENCE

for O'Neill students

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—**Abigail Garcia-Flores**, BSPA'23, MSES'25

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O'Neill *Onward*

FALL 2023

The O'Neill Onward alumni magazine is produced annually by the Office of Marketing and Communications at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

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ON THE COVER: Sydney Terrones (left), MPA'20, technology analyst at Deloitte, coordinated a service event with the Deloitte consulting team and IU students at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank garden.

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WELCOME



Since 1972, the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs has been focused on researching, developing, and creating policies that impact our everyday lives while also training the next generation of influential leaders in the public, private, and nonprofit spheres.

The past year has been a celebration of the first half-century of the O'Neill School, and it has been such an honor to meet and interact with so many alumni and friends who put a spotlight on all we've accomplished throughout the decades. Be sure to check out the many ways that the O'Neill community is making a difference in the world, the memories of the O'Neill School that alumni shared, and look back at how we celebrated our 50th anniversary in this issue.

And you never know when you might meet an O'Neill alum! During a recent trip to the Frida Kahlo Museum in Mexico City, I ran into two of our graduates, Nate and Laurel Cannon Alder, and their son, Jacob Alder, who recently graduated from our MPA program. Nate was wearing an O'Neill T-shirt, and it was wonderful to see IU and our school represented so far from home. It was a memory I won't soon forget!

As we move into our next 50 years, we do so with a clear sense that what is past is prologue and with a vision for expanding our influence both in the state of Indiana and on the global stage.

We'll continue to pursue our foundational ideals of making a difference by leading for the greater good by building our profile on our Indianapolis campus. We are excited about the opportunities that will accompany the transition of IUPUI to Indiana University Indianapolis, opportunities that will allow the O'Neill School to work even more closely with both the city and the state while also equipping our students for meaningful careers.

Our faculty are world leaders with a long, proud history of collaboration, and we're certain this transition will allow the O'Neill School to grow and thrive as part of the largest urban research university in the state.

Finally, I'm incredibly proud that *U.S. News & World Report* once again ranked the O'Neill School in the top spot as the country's best graduate school for public affairs. We also garnered the top ranking for our concentrations in environmental policy and management, nonprofit management, public finance and budgeting, and public management and leadership. We further ranked in the Top 10 in public policy analysis, health policy and management, and local government management.

Our alumni are a big reason why the O'Neill School has maintained its reputation as the premier public affairs school in the country. Thank you so much for all you do for the O'Neill School, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish in the next 50 years.

To quote our founding dean, Chuck Bonser, "We are just getting started!"

Siân Mooney, Ph.D.
Dean



Professor **Vicky Meretsky** and students pulled garlic mustard and other invasive plants in the Deam Wilderness in the Hoosier National Forest.

Making a difference

BY TRACEY THERIAULT

In honor of our 50th anniversary, we collected stories from O’Neill School alumni, students, faculty, and staff about how they are volunteering their time, making a difference, and leading for the greater good. We received responses about service projects happening across the country, from Savannah, Georgia, to Palm Desert, California, and throughout the Midwest. It is exciting to see the many ways in which the O’Neill community is impacting our world.

In Palm Desert, California, you’ll find **David Roberson**, MSES’78, helping residents prepare for emergencies and disasters, such as a major earthquake, in his volunteer role as IT director with the Sun City Palm Desert Emergency Preparedness Committee.

“My education at the O’Neill School and career in IT and hazardous waste management provided me with both technical and

management skills to be able to help this organization with its IT needs, team leadership, and preparations for emergency response when needed,” Roberson said.

Roberson also serves as a team leader and database manager for the Neighbors-4-Neighbors Desert Village Initiative which helps seniors age in place.

“When I retired, I was looking for opportunities to give back to the community,” Roberson said. “My short two-year stint in the MSES program helped me understand that everything is connected and how even small positive inputs can make a big difference in our environment, community, and world.”

In Georgia, the O’Neill School’s Clinical Associate Professor **David Bell** is consulting with the Savannah Police Department to improve the public policy response to mental health incidents. As part of this effort, the department launched a Behavioral Health Unit and training program to help officers

de-escalate situations and connect individuals with mental health resources.

“Work is ongoing and includes consultation with senior police administration, collaboration partners, and other stakeholders as well as observations and research of best practices,” Bell said.

Christina Mendoza, BSPA’00, is a senior executive assistant at UScellular and volunteers her time on the board of the Future Cycle Breakers, an organization in Valparaiso, Indiana, that helps minority youth in underserved communities receive inspiration and the tools they need to become successful business owners. She is also the founder of the Elizabeth Hopper Memorial Endowed Scholarship at Purdue University and serves on the O’Neill School’s Alumni Board.

Mendoza was excited to reconnect with former coworkers and come together for a good cause at a fundraising event she helped plan for the Future Cycle Breakers’ first summer camp.

Brandon Hough, MPA'23, is a major gifts officer at Antioch College in Ohio and volunteers his time as president of the Rotary Club of Beaver Creek, where he leads weekly meetings and organizes events, including their own 50th celebration. He is also a board member of Running USA and the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association, where he assists with fundraising efforts, leads bird counts, and clears honey-suckle from their properties.



“Great way to come together to celebrate Black History Month, support a local business and our entrepreneurs,” she said.

Lauren Rapp, MPA'22, is the interim chief of development and communications at the Chicago Public Education Fund and volunteers her time as a guild member with the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, where she chairs individual sponsorship, raising money from current and former guild members to support the haunted house and the museum’s centennial capital campaign.

“I am serving a six-year term on the guild, through which I volunteer at least 500 hours a year. I’ll be at the museum for at least 80 hours in October alone, staffing the haunted house,” Rapp said. “It’s a lot, but I love giving back to my community this way.”

Anastasia Nystedt, BSPA'96, served as PTO president at the Clarendon Hills Middle School in Illinois. The highlight of her time in that role was an outdoor classroom project that began in the fall of 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My PTO exec team led our organization through the post-COVID restart to normal and managed the outdoor classroom project. School, family, and staff recognize the benefits of taking classes outdoors and want to continue to have those benefits for students,” Nystedt said. “What was once no man’s land with overgrown grass and mud puddles is now an enjoyable garden-like space for the whole community.”

Jamey (Alexander) Behringer, BSPA'89, is the CEO of Icon Protection and is an ongoing advocate and mentor for children in foster care with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of River Valley in Illinois.

“The youth I support have made an astounding difference in my life,” Behringer said. “My CASA kids have taught me much about grit and determination and regularly inspire me to find more ways to positively impact their foster care outcomes.”



O'Neill MPA student **Zolboo Dashmyagmar** participated in the Annual Lake Monroe Shoreline Cleanup with the Indiana State Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hoosier National Forest, Friends of Lake Monroe, and the city of Bloomington. She was part of the Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute’s Women in Sustainability team.

The O'Neill School community is making a significant impact on the world. Whether they are preparing for emergencies and disasters, improving public policy responses to mental health incidents, empowering minority youth in underserved communities, organizing events and fundraising, or advocating for children in foster care, each person is using their skills and education to make a difference in the world. These stories are a testament to the O'Neill School's commitment to public service and its role in shaping leaders who strive for the greater good. We look forward to seeing how the O'Neill community will continue to make a positive impact in the years to come.



For two decades, Associate Professor **Jennifer Brass** has given pro-bono international nonprofit advice to the Gatoto Integrated Development Programme, a Kenyan registered NGO with the mandate to deliver high-quality educational interventions at the primary, post-primary, and community levels through partnerships with schools. Brass helps the organization with goal setting, networking, fundraising, and more.



Eric Lillyblad, MPA-MSES'89, is a volunteer with the Boundary Waters Advisory Committee doing hiking trail maintenance work in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He has helped clear trails and document trail conditions on the Powwow Trail and the Sioux Hustler Trail. Lillyblad also volunteers with Wilderness Inquiry to make educational outdoor adventures accessible to all, including urban youth and people with disabilities.



Students in the O'Neill School's **Civic Leaders Center** volunteer with many organizations in Bloomington, including My Sister's Closet, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Bloomington Community Orchard, and the Research and Teaching Preserve.



Tristan Schmidt, MPA'23, works as an educational support services specialist at the University of Iowa and volunteers as a youth mentor at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County.

O'Neill memories



From Joby Jerrells

My days in the graduate program at the O'Neill School prepared me well to succeed in a career in law and public policy. Of the many great professors, three stand out. John Mikesell was an incredible resource. Prof. Mikesell and I were both Bloomington natives with humble beginnings. He was a mentor, a role model with high standards, and a gentleman. In a tax case against Donald Trump, I relied on the knowledge of revenue policy gained from Prof. Mikesell's textbook. Prof. O'Meara was also a huge influence on me. Even though we may have disagreed on some things, he was respectful and open to debate, a true academic treasure reminiscent of the caliber and character of Herman B Wells. I remember the last time I saw Prof. O'Meara at an opera on campus. We sat near each other and fondly reminisced about the O'Neill School. Though I never had Nobel Prize-winning Elinor Ostrom as a professor, I had the privilege of working for her just after earning my MPA. I traveled the world to support Prof. Ostrom's research on the human dimensions of global environmental change, of which Prof. J.C. Randolph was integral. The outstanding faculty at the O'Neill School prepared me to succeed in law school, where I graduated with honors. I ultimately served at the White House as ethics counsel to the Office of the Vice President of the United States (a nonpolitical position). The photo above is the view of the White House from my office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Thank you, O'Neill School, and the amazing faculty who have taught there. I would never have been able to achieve all I have done without you.



From Catherine Guillemain Lynch

Where is Indiana? It was my first question when I listened to Prof. Charlie Wise talk about the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, and Bloomington in May 1980. He was recruiting students from Paris Sud Law School to launch an exchange program between the two schools. I became the first of those students. At first, I was set to earn a Certificate in Public Management. I ended up graduating with a Master of Public Affairs in 1982. My husband, David, who also earned a Certificate in Public Management, worked in the school's placement office from 1982–83 with Jack Merritt. While a graduate student, I was asked to create a student guide for incoming French students. I was one of the first employees of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Leadership positions in health consulting, not-for-profit, and philanthropy management at Mayo Clinic followed. I am now teaching the French language to proficient learners. What started as a one-year experiment at IU became a lifelong adventure, and I am very grateful for the opportunity I received 42 years ago.





From Christina Mendoza

These two ladies, I met them in the O'Neill School and am still friends with them today! Both ladies helped me in my journey with study groups, learning from each other, and loving IU!



From Daniel Bortner

I graduated from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs in 1987 with a BSPA. In 2005, I was named the director of Indiana State Parks—a position I held for more than 15 years. During that time, I served three different governors—Governor Daniels, Governor Pence, and Governor Holcomb. I also served as the president of the National Association of State Park Directors and on the board of the America's State Parks Foundation. When I left that position in August of 2020, I was the third-longest tenured state parks director in the nation at that time and the longest serving director of state parks in Indiana history. In August of 2020, I was asked by Governor Holcomb to join his cabinet as the director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. I hold this position still and am proud to say that the education and experiences I gained while a student at IU and the O'Neill School help me to navigate the challenging world of natural resources.



From Kisten Born

I started my MPA studies at IUPUI in 1995, right after getting married. Our son, Cade, was born in 1997, so I took a leave from my MPA studies, as I was a full-time employee, supervising the criminal division courts clerks office in the City-County Building, and I had a newborn. My husband volunteered to do an active duty Army tour after 9/11 and we ended up stationed overseas and lived in Italy (with the 173rd airborne), then in England, then Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and finally Fort Carson, Colorado. During these years of moving and working—primarily for the Department of Defense in different civilian jobs—I always missed working in the judiciary. In 2013, I was given a unique opportunity to become the first Veterans Trauma Court Coordinator for the 4th Judicial District in Colorado Springs, Colorado. My boss pushed me to finish my MPA. I reached out to the advisors at the O'Neill School and they did an amazing job digging through old records and going over the faxed documents I had kept to help me get re-enrolled. I only needed four classes to finish, but now classes could be completed virtually! I was motivated by my employer, but I was more determined to finish MY degree before my son. Remember Cade? That newborn, who I took a “break” from school to raise in 1997? He got a full scholarship to attend the Kelley School of Business at IU in 2015. I was not going to let the kid beat me to graduation! I finished my MPA in December 2018. It took me 23 years to complete my MPA, but it was worth the time and I learned so much. Besides still being the VTC coordinator in Colorado Springs, a national peer training court, I am also now an adjunct faculty member for Justice for Vets. I help stand up and provide training to vet courts around the country. The O'Neill School is a wonderful place to learn problem-solving skills. The staff are dedicated and persistent. They helped an “old school” alum finish her degree. Hoosiers never give up! (Graduation picture from my B.S. at IU in 1991.)



From Betsy Newnum

In 1975, I had not been able to find an education that matched my heart, my intellect, and my skills. Then came the new school in the basement of Poplars Hotel and I enrolled for a bachelor's degree in land use planning. We used Ian McHarg's textbook, *Design with Nature*, which discussed how ag and land use maps could be placed as overlays on topographical maps to better visualize impacts and make decisions based on several dimensions. I loved it, and during an Allen County internship, I did that very task: overlaying land uses, corridors, and natural features to assist in a highway decision. Sound familiar, like today's GIS? ESRI? After more than 20 years in the environmental field (freshwater plant identification and environmental permits for major linear projects), I retired so grateful. I was able to find my niche where my skills, training, and intellect were able to flourish. I said my retirement farewells to some of the best people around—environmental lawyers, scientists, biologists, and so on—who had the best hearts and minds. Now I am retired and having a lot of fun meeting new people and volunteering (that's me in the center of the photo). Thank you, O'Neill School, many times over. Keep up the good work for another 50-plus years, the world needs O'Neill grads.



From Shibani Mody

Unlike most of my peers, I did not get my start at the O'Neill School. I transferred to IU my sophomore year from another university and was encouraged by Brian Seavey and members of the admissions council to apply to transfer into the O'Neill School. At that time, I felt excited for a fresh start and to show my true potential to IU after struggling through an unfulfilled life at my prior school with not a good environment nor many opportunities. My first day of class, I knew my life was going to change for the better. O'Neill gave me my first home and the opportunities to become the person I had always wanted to be. This school changed my life by giving me friends that I will cherish for a lifetime and happiness that I never thought I could have. My first day of classes, a very wise and inspiring professor wrote a single quote on the board, "We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand." I took this to heart while navigating a new campus and rebuilding my life, I decided to choose positivity over negativity. During my three years at O'Neill, I helped to co-found the O'Neill Undergraduate Student Council, I was in the Washington Leadership Program, I used the skills I learned at IU to pass a bill in Congress advocating for service animals, and I made friends and relationships that will last me a lifetime no matter where I go. I am a proud alum of the O'Neill School and I am honored to have been in the O'Neill Honors Program and spend a year working on my senior thesis on the mass incarceration system with so much support and help from my professors and peers. Eventually, all of these experiences and lessons led me to becoming the commencement speaker for my graduating Class of 2022 at the O'Neill Recognition Ceremony. I truly believe that I would not be as accomplished nor successful today, on the path to law school, without the education I received at O'Neill.



From Barry Solomon

I was the first doctoral student in the now defunct Ph.D. program in Regional Analysis and Planning that was offered jointly with the Department of Geography. While it was often challenging straddling multiple disciplines and fields of students, Indiana University and the O'Neill School, in particular, trained me extremely well for a productive career in academia (20 years at Michigan Technological University) and 11 years working for the federal government (EPA and DOE). I fondly remember our early days in the Poplars Building and finally the move to the current location in 1982. I am very proud to be an alum of this truly model school. Dean Bonser was a great leader and a kind man, and I was fortunate to have great advisors and mentors in Kingsley Haynes and Barry Rubin.



From left: Bob Kravchuk, Shawn Novak, John Rupp, Kurt Zorn, and Mark Levin; not pictured: Mark Norrell and William Foley, Jr.

Faculty retirements

The O'Neill School honored retiring faculty during a ceremony in May at the Indiana Memorial Union in Bloomington.

Professor Bob Kravchuk, Clinical Associate Professor Mark Levin, Senior Lecturer Mark Norrell, Clinical Associate Professor Shawn Novak, Clinical Associate Professor John Rupp, and Professor Kurt Zorn all were honored during the ceremony. Senior Lecturer William Foley, Jr. at the Indianapolis campus also retired this year.

"Our friends who are moving to the next chapter of their lives have been instrumental in building the foundation of the O'Neill School and maintaining the high standards for which we are known around the world," said Dean Siân Mooney. "They have been colleagues, collaborators, and friends, and our school simply will not be the same without them in our halls on a daily basis."

Each retiring faculty member in attendance was given an opportunity to speak at the event, entertaining the crowd with stories of their careers and the lessons learned along the way. Zorn was the longest-tenured member of the group, having served the O'Neill School for more than 40 years, including a stint as interim dean during the 2007-08 academic year.

"This year's gathering is especially important to me because it comes as we close out our 50th academic year and celebrate another No. 1 ranking for the O'Neill School in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings," Mooney said. "The success of our school is built on the impact of our graduates, but more importantly, it comes based on the reputation of our faculty, the people who are doing amazing research while also shaping the policy leaders of tomorrow. I look forward to finding out what their next chapter brings for our retirees, and I know we'll be able to lean on their earned wisdom in the future if needed."

Celebrating the 50th

Professor Emeritus and founding faculty member **Charles R. Wise** with **Pat Ryan**, widow of IU President Emeritus John W. Ryan, at the 50th celebration in October 2022.



Executive Associate Dean **Jeremy Carter** (left) moderated the *Leading Police Legitimacy into the Future* session at the 50th celebration in October 2022. **Duane Ingram**, BSPA'06, Vice President of Community Affairs at RISE INDY, was a panelist.



The 50th celebration in October 2022 featured a panel entitled "Health Equity: Challenges & Opportunities, Three Perspectives." From left: moderator **Amy Mack**, MPA-MSES'93, CEO, Institute for Functional Medicine, with panelists **Tammy Baynes**, MSW, LSW, client services team lead at IU Health Bloomington; **Ben Kern**, MSHM'20, manager of operations, Beacon Health System; and Distinguished Professor **Kosali Simon**.



Jori Mundy, MPA'15, inspired women leaders to make their dreams a reality at the Women's Empowerment Summit in March 2023.



From left: **Ninjia Miles**, MPA'17; **Julia Bauer**, BA'19, MPA'21; **Rachel Bellamy**, MPA'21; Dean **Siân Mooney**; **Jori Mundy**, MPA'15; **Jaime Blakesley**, BSPA'00; **Christina Motilall**, MPA-MSES'12; and **Noelle Gipson**, BSPA'16, at the Women's Empowerment Summit in March 2023.



In April 2023, the O'Neill School once again celebrated our No. 1-ranking by *U.S. News and World Report*. From left: Dean **Siân Mooney** with present and past MPA program directors **Jill Nicholson-Crotty**, **Bob Kravchuk**, **Beth Gazley**, and **Sanya Carley**.



In October 2023, Professor **Paul Helmke** shared his dream and vision for future leaders at the 10-year anniversary celebration of the Civic Leaders Living Learning Center at Briscoe Residence Center.



IU President **Pamela Whitten** celebrated a decade of impact by the Civic Leaders Center at the anniversary event in October 2023.

In October 2023, MPA student **RaeVen Ridgell** fist bumped President Whitten after her riveting speech at the culmination event of the O'Neill School's 50th anniversary. She shared about how the scholarships she received to pursue her education had saved her life.



Dean **Siân Mooney** shared her vision for the future impact of the school at the culmination of the school's 50th anniversary celebration in the Tower Ballroom on the Indianapolis campus in October 2023.



During the 50th Anniversary Culmination event in October 2023, Professor Emeritus **Tom DeCoster** challenged guests to continue striving for excellence.

FACES OF O'NEILL



MICHAEL CERVANTES
MAAA'19

Michael Cervantes started his career in the IU Office of the President. Now, he is senior associate director at the IU Alumni Association where he engages with alumni across the country, facilitating ways for alums to connect back to IU through meaningful volunteer opportunities.

"O'Neill provided me with a supportive network of friends and professionals, allowing me opportunities to develop skills through my program and assistantships. My time as a MAAA student helped me realign my career path to the field of advancement where I create avenues for alumni to pursue service and philanthropic passions. I am immensely grateful to everyone at O'Neill for an unforgettable student experience."



CARLYN JOHNSON
FOUNDING FACULTY

Carlyn Johnson, a founding faculty member of the O'Neill School in Indianapolis, was working on a Ford Foundation grant assisting the Indiana legislature when Dean Charles Bonser tapped her to join the school. She dedicated the rest of her career to teaching courses emphasizing public and nonprofit service and the importance of civic engagement until her retirement in 1998.

Johnson firmly believes that hands-on learning is integral to personal and professional growth. She created the Johnson Community Service Scholarship to give back to the school and support students in low-paying or unpaid internships. Her legacy at the O'Neill School empowers future generations to learn through experience and engage meaningfully with their communities.

"I really enjoyed getting to work with the O'Neill faculty and staff. They're such great people."



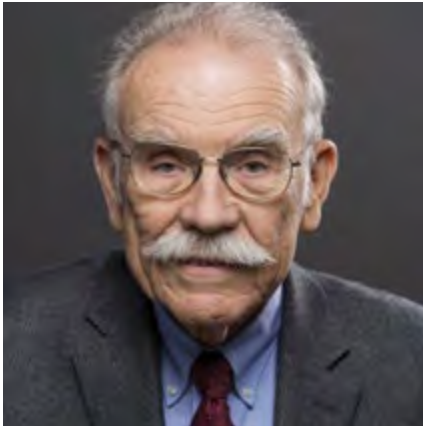
ROY JUMPER
FOUNDING FACULTY

Roy Jumper, a founding faculty member and leader at the O'Neill School, joined in 1972 as an associate professor and director of professional development. He later served as associate dean and professor from 1974 to 1986.

Jumper collaborated with IU President John W. Ryan and Dean Charles Bonser to shape the school's academic and programmatic vision. He was instrumental in securing state funding for the first O'Neill building, establishing the Washington Leadership Program, and facilitating the school's early international programs.

After leaving in 1986, he became provost of Indiana University's Malaysia Cooperative Program. Recognized for his contributions, Jumper was appointed Professor Emeritus in 1991.

"There has been no effort comparable to SPEA (O'Neill) in terms of relating the university in a dynamic way to the problems of government in the United States."



JOHN MIKESSELL
CHANCELLOR'S PROFESSOR
EMERITUS (1942–2019)

John Mikesell was a world-renowned expert in the study of public finance, including sales and property tax, as well as administration and public budgeting systems. Mikesell gained extensive experience on the international stage as a financial consultant and fiscal economist, working with the World Bank to develop system reforms. Mikesell wrote or edited six published books—among them the most widely adopted text on governmental financial administration in the United States.

“It’s difficult to find a subfield of public policy and budgeting that doesn’t have John’s fingerprints on it,” said Siân Mooney, dean of the O’Neill School. “His passion for policy and drive as an educator has allowed him to make not only a personal impact on his field but also has influenced generations of leaders both from our school and around the world.”



CHRISTINA MOTILALL
MPA-MSES’12

Following graduation, Christina Motilall worked as an environmental fellow at a nonpartisan think tank, then as an environmental scientist at a consulting firm. Ultimately, her career landed her at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. In addition, she is an adjunct instructor for O’Neill’s new D.C. Accelerator graduate program.

“While I was intent on working in environmental justice, I knew there were many paths to accomplishing that goal; some less obvious than others. I am happy I walked through a few different doors to gain experiences that ultimately rounded out my resume in helpful ways. While having a plan is important, it is even more important to keep progressing in some way. If you keep moving forward and trying your best, you’ll land where you need to.”



PAUL H. O’NEILL
BENEFACTOR (1935–2020)

Paul H. O’Neill began his career as a computer systems analyst at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. After a government-sponsored year at IU, he earned his MPA in 1966.

After graduating, he joined the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, serving as the deputy director. He later became vice president and president of International Paper Company, chairman of the RAND Corporation, chairman and CEO of Alcoa, and co-founder of the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative. O’Neill served as the U.S. Treasury Secretary in 2001 before returning to the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative and later founding Value Capture.

O’Neill never forgot his roots. His gifts totaling \$33 million led to the renaming of the school in his honor.

“My hope is that the school remains a place of excellence where future leaders can combine passion with action and develop the confidence they need to engage with society’s greatest challenges and opportunities.”



PHILIP J. RUTLEDGE
PROFESSOR EMERITUS (1925–2007)

One of the most influential leaders in the field of public administration and social equity, Philip J. Rutledge held high-profile public policy positions at the local and national levels before transitioning to the realm of academia, including nearly 20 years at Indiana University and the O'Neill School. The O'Neill IUPUI-Philip Rutledge Fellows Program was expressly established to celebrate his tireless contributions to public good with the aim of making it possible for future generations of highly talented minority students to follow his footsteps.

“He was a beloved and impactful instructor who is a model for not only how to do and how to embrace a public service ethos but also is a model for underrepresented groups today to see that there is a path to find your way through,” said Clinical Associate Professor David A. Bell.



DENISE SCROGGINS
STAFF

Denise Scroggins had just finished a practicum in the O'Neill School for her master's degree in college student personnel administration in 1995 when she was hired as an academic advisor. Fast forward 27 years, two kids, hundreds of adjunct faculty, 25 graduation festivities, and various job titles, and she continues to be an integral part of the school.

“While I've stayed in the same school for nearly three decades, my role has evolved throughout the years. My leadership skills have been valued as I have been tapped to guide student committees and campus endeavors for the school. I can truly say I am blessed to have spent so much time surrounded by passionate faculty, staff, and students who constantly strive to do good and make the world better.”



KYLE SEIBERT
BSPA'23

MPA student Kyle Seibert sits on the IU Board of Trustees. He was IU student body president during the 2022–23 academic year, was actively involved in the Civic Leaders Center, and played a key role in IU's strategic planning process. Seibert entered IU during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of community and connection inspired him to lead the effort to make the IU student experience safer, more inclusive, and healthier.

“When my term is up on April 15, 2023, I want everyone on this campus—all 40,000 plus students—to feel just a little more connected and secure in their place on campus than what they were before our administration. Whether that's connected to a student group or connected to their work in a lab or their work just on their academics, I want people to feel like IU really is home.”



The Civic Leaders Living-Learning Center is located in the Briscoe Residence Center on the Bloomington campus.

Civic Leaders Center celebrates 10 years

BY EMILY COX

In 2013, amid the sticky August heat of Welcome Week, 66 freshmen crowded onto the first two floors of the newly renovated Briscoe Residence Center to take part in an ambitious experiment: to form the first class of the Civic Leaders Living-Learning Center (CLC).

“All we had was a dream and a vision,” said Paul Helmke, professor of practice and director of the CLC. “But we recruited a really excellent first class, and they created the model and traditions that we still carry on today.”

The idea behind the CLC was to bring a group of civic-minded students together and help them develop their leadership potential early in their college careers.

They’d build upon their first-year experience by taking part in additional programming at the O’Neill School, serving in clubs and organizations across the university, and eventually leading for the greater good in their communities.

Has the experiment succeeded?

Helmke thinks so. He points to a long list of students who have held leadership positions with IU Student Government and Dance Marathon, served on IU’s Board of Acons, been appointed to the IU Board of Trustees, and formed new clubs like Women in Government. He also points to the positive impact of the CLC on the O’Neill School.

“They’re the student ambassadors. They’re on the debate team, and they’re the TAs for the other classes,” Helmke

said. “Without the Civic Leaders, the quality of student life at O’Neill would be a lot different.”

And with 109 new students joining the program this fall, the experiment is far from over.

Supporting relationship-building, mentorship

Ten years in, the basic formula of the CLC remains largely unchanged. First-year students still live together and take one class with O’Neill faculty, such as Senior Lecturer John Karaagac or Associate Professor Matt Baggetta, in Briscoe. They still travel together to Washington, D.C., every fall and participate in service projects in the Bloomington community. They attend regular seminars where they hear



Civic Leaders spent three weeks in Athens, Greece, studying the classical roots of democracy.



Who is Paul Helmke?

The credential list is long: IU student body president, class of 1970; J.D., Yale Law; three-term mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana; former president and CEO of the Brady Center/Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; O’Neill School professor of practice; and the founding director of the Civic Leaders Living-Learning Center.

“In each of my previous roles—lawyer, mayor, head of a national advocacy organization—a lot of what I did was to try to encourage people to be civically engaged,” Helmke said.

“As a lawyer, I was on a lot of nonprofit boards. As mayor, I was encouraging neighborhood associations to form and get stronger. When I was at Brady, we wanted chapters around the country that were going to deal with gun violence prevention. So, it all sort of fit together, and that’s what attracted me to this position. Dealing with civic engagement was something I’d done my whole life. I’ve always wanted to multiply my efforts by having young people go out and do things. It seems to be working.”

from politicians, journalists, and people like Lonnie Bedwell, an extreme adventure athlete who motivates students to craft a positive vision for their lives even though he, himself, is blind. They still kayak on lake day and learn the proper fork to choose during their annual etiquette dinner. And, they can still choose to cap their experience by spending their summer abroad studying the ancient roots of democracy in Athens, Greece.

The program’s two biggest changes include increasing the cohort size and developing formal channels for hands-on leadership development and mentorship.

Approximately 100 students now inhabit the first three floors of Briscoe’s Gucker Tower. Helmke thinks they’ve found the sweet spot: large enough to meet demand, but small enough that students can still reasonably get to know each other.

Naturally, as the number of Civic Leaders has expanded, so has its alumni base. To harness this potential, the CLC now hosts an annual “All Class Dinner” and a mentorship program for returning Civic Leaders to engage with new students.

Becky Rosen, associate director of the CLC, points to these relationship-building opportunities as a major factor behind the program’s success.

“The professional development seminars we do—like resume building and how to give a good interview—offer skills that are generally helpful to most people. But what really makes a difference is connecting students with the Civic Leaders who came before,” Rosen said. “If you’re interested in a club or an organization, there is a strong chance a Civic Leader has been involved in the past, which gives you a foot in the door.”

Overcoming obstacles

One of the CLC’s biggest challenges hit in March of 2020, when students were sent home before spring break because of the COVID-19 pandemic and did not return to campus to finish the semester. The

following year, Civic Leaders were allowed to live in Briscoe, but they had reduced time together and took classes online.

“For the group that’s going to be seniors this year, we did our whole program online, not in person,” Helmke said. “That was tough, since so much of our program is about building community.”

Keeping civic engagement civil

Another challenge is perennial: teaching a group of politically active students to engage civilly in civic discourse.

“Every election season, people get uptight. It’s natural,” Helmke said. “One of the things we try to teach is how to disagree in a polite manner—but we still want them to care about things, too!”

Helmke’s primary strategy is to model good behavior so that students can learn how to ask tough questions.

About his law and public affairs course, Helmke said, “I sometimes assign people to argue the opposite side of controversial cases so they can learn to see the arguments on each side, like you would as a lawyer. It’s hard! You’re idealistic! But wisdom, age, and experience teach you that no one has a perfect record. You learn to take a longer view. That’s tough when you’re 19, but you can learn through exposure to different ideas, different speakers, and modeling.

“Society as a whole needs this, too,” he added.

Building a legacy with an eye toward the future

Helmke has high expectations for his former students—and plenty of reasons to be proud. Since the first Civic Leaders graduated in 2017, many have completed graduate school, launched careers, and even started families. Some are practicing law in places like Arizona and California, while others work in political offices in Washington, D.C.

Looking to the future, Rosen said, “In the next 10 years, it’s exciting to consider



Current Civic Leaders at the 10th anniversary celebration.

the growth that’s possible when these leaders get a chance to stretch their wings. It will be really cool to watch alumni turn around and be seminar speakers or mentors and give their time and knowledge to help shape the next group.”

CLC alum and former assistant director Savannah Wormley, BSPA’18, provides a model for what that might look like. Wormley recently started her second year of law school in Boston, after having worked in the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the Department of Justice. She credits the CLC with showing her the importance of finding a supportive community, especially when pursuing a career in public service.

“I still get so much joy from things like attending the D.C. alumni event,

connecting with younger CLC students through phone calls and LinkedIn, and keeping in touch with the CLC through the Emerging Leaders Council,” Wormley said. “I’m very excited to watch our alumni network grow.”

While professional success and public service are natural goals for Civic Leaders alumni, Helmke is most proud of the relationships they’ve formed along the way.

“What makes me feel good is to look at them on Facebook or Instagram and see that some of these people are still best friends,” Helmke said. “They’re in each other’s weddings; it’s who they travel with. So, you know—you put a good group together, and they develop good relationships. That will help them and, ultimately, help their communities.”

Support the Civic Leaders Center

A donation to the Civic Leaders Living-Learning Center Fund helps foster an impactful first year for students. Through the support of alumni and friends, future students can participate in life-changing learning as they seek to develop leadership skills for the greater good. To support the Civic Leaders Living-Learning Center located in the Briscoe Residence Center on the Bloomington campus, visit go.iu.edu/CLC-fund.





Ted Field



Hannah Frome

Highlighting student internships

BY COLIN KULPA

One of the O’Neill School’s defining characteristics is quality, hands-on learning experiences. Two students this summer exemplified how O’Neill elevates education with placements beyond the classroom, helping improve communities in Indiana and across the country.

Ted Field

Ted Field received the Peterson Fellowship while completing his MPA at the O’Neill School in Indianapolis.

The Peterson Fellowship is a three-semester fellowship providing financial support for talented O’Neill graduate students to gain experience with the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office; IndyGo, the public transportation authority in Indianapolis; and Indianapolis International Airport.

Field started his journey as a Peterson Fellow with the Indianapolis Airport Authority, the body overseeing the airport, then moved to the mayor’s office. This summer he finished his time at IndyGo.

“It has been really phenomenal for me to try my hand at a bunch of different things,” Field said. “Right now, I’m spearheading a customer perception survey IndyGo hopes to roll out

sometime next year. So far, I’ve been responsible for creating the scope of work and developing a pilot program so that we can test it and make sure that it’s going to work.”

In his stops across the Circle City, his hands-on experience went beyond what was offered in the classroom, all in complementary ways.

Field dipped his hands in photography and videography while with the airport authority, producing work that would end up in their “decade of excellence” video project.

At the mayor’s office, he worked primarily with the education team, reviewing applications for new charter schools in the city. He conducted research and analysis and was a part of the interview process these schools require.

Field’s fellowship allowed him to diversify his education with distinct learning opportunities unique to the fellowship, which have taken him beyond what he could learn in the classroom.

“To be able to take the concepts that I was learning in class, use my experiences at these places to talk about how things worked in my class to bring that experience there, it was really neat,” Field said.

His fellowship experience paid off in the classroom, too, when it came time for his cohort’s capstone project.

“Instead of writing a paper, our capstone group decided to do a video,” Field said. “We worked with the organization Indiana Vote by Mail. Because I was able to gather some of the experience doing videography at the airport, the group was on board with trying to do something a little bit outside the box and different, and something that honestly scared us a little bit going into it because it wasn’t the security blanket of writing a paper, but we were able to pull that off and feel pretty good about it.”

Field is not sure what is next, but he knows he wants to help improve his community. If anything, the Peterson Fellowship opened so many doors he will have a tough time choosing which one to walk through.

“The goal with going back to grad school and doing this program in general was to cast a wide net and allow myself the opportunity to say yes to multiple opportunities, which is what the Peterson fellowship has allowed me to do in tandem with that,” Field said. “If the Peterson Fellowship has shown me anything it is that there are so many different possibilities that most people don’t even know exist.”

Hannah Frome

Hannah Frome, an MPA student at the O’Neill School in Bloomington, is a member of the first cohort of students in the O’Neill D.C. Accelerator Program. The program combines O’Neill’s top-ranked MPA program with the experience of living and working in the nation’s capital.

After interning with Gallup this summer, Frome started with the Government Accountability Office at the end of August.

“I was actually able to get that internship just by talking to the Career Services Center, and they were able to connect me to one of the directors there, Cardell Johnson, who has a long-standing relationship with O’Neill. I’m going to be in the Natural Resources and Environment division, which I was told is about 30% O’Neill alums, including everyone on my project, which is pretty impressive.”

While taking classes through O’Neill in Washington, D.C., Frome will work with GAO to gather and analyze data regarding drone usage in sectors of the federal government.

“Without going into too much detail, a specific committee of Congress is interested in the research implications of whether government departments use drones for research or whether they don’t,” Frome said. “There’s some cybersecurity and other concerns related to using drones. So, the question is, is it worth taking on those risks, because of the research benefits that the government would get? Or does the risk outweigh the benefits?”

Frome is committed to improving the communities in which she is involved. This summer at Gallup she worked with a team committed to tackling food insecurity and diving deeper into studying inequality with Black Americans.

“I was primarily supporting the Gallup Center on Black Voices, which is a 100-year commitment that they’ve made to really understanding the lived experiences of Black Americans,” Frome said. “Traditionally, a lot of the research has been what I would call statistics, right? It’s just fact based. This is what the dropout rate is, this is what recidivism looks like. But there’s not a lot of information on how Black Americans are experiencing their lives on a day-to-day basis. So, Gallup is partnering with different cities and doing extensive survey research focused on understanding the Black experience.”

Frome developed research agendas for both the educational and environmental areas of the center and made sure the areas had century-long relevance as the center continues its work. In addition, she helped kick off a project studying food insecurity in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The results will be sent to the client, a large health system in the Dallas area, which will evaluate intervention methods they can take to lessen food insecurity in central Texas.

Frome’s O’Neill experience has been defined by saying yes to the many opportunities available. From jumping into that first D.C. Accelerator cohort to joining the board of Students for Equity in Public Affairs, getting involved has been crucial to her education.

“There have been multiple opportunities where professors have mentioned, ‘Hey, there’s this workshop coming up for learning scrum methodology,’ or there’s an event you can go to. Or showing up to all the Career Hub’s great opportunities to network with employers,” Frome said. “I think all the opportunities that O’Neill provides have gotten me in this position. I’m just incredibly well positioned going forward, and I’m really appreciative of that.”

Support student internships

The O’Neill School understands the importance of student internships, and—with your help—we’re committed to helping undergraduate and graduate students gain the skills only hands-on experience can bring. Because some internships are either unpaid or low-paying, we have created internship funds designed to support students while they are applying their classroom knowledge in the professional workplace.

Please consider supporting student internships by donating to the Greater Good Internship Fund (Bloomington) or the Making a Difference Internship Scholarship (Indianapolis) at magazine.oneill.indiana.edu/give-now. Your gift allows students to gain valuable experiences that will prepare them for career success.



Donor Spotlight

Gifts in honor of our 50th



Pat Ryan and Kathleen Ryan Acker

When John Ryan became president of Indiana University in 1971, he had many goals—one of which was to establish a public affairs school.

Considering his educational background in public administration, Ryan had a vision for an IU that served the state and the nation by providing public servants with a solid education in public administration. The field of environmental science was emerging, as well, and Ryan believed it was the perfect time to establish a new school that blended public administration and environmental science. That belief led to the founding of the then-School of Public and Environmental Affairs in 1972.

In honor of President Emeritus Ryan's role in the founding of the O'Neill School, his colleagues and friends established the John W. Ryan Fellowships. On the occasion of the school's 50th anniversary, President Ryan's widow, Pat, and daughter, Kathleen, honored John Ryan by making significant contributions to the Ryan Fellowships. John W. Ryan Fellows spend a semester working with government or NGOs on key projects.

"John was the first in his family to attend college, getting his undergraduate degree with the aid of a Navy ROTC scholarship. He was always interested in supporting students because getting his degree was difficult for him. He wanted to make it easier for students. This school is the culmination of a dream of his. He would be so pleased to see where it is today and the impact its graduates have made." —Pat Ryan

Class NOTES

If you have an update you would like to appear in Class Notes, email us at oneillar@iu.edu.

1970s

Becky Honeywell, BSPA'79, was named the executive director of Friends of Indy Animals.

1990s

Dawn Moore, MPA'94, and her team have been selected to receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Honor Award. This award recognizes employee excellence in helping the USDA achieve its strategic goals.

Brian Guse, MPA'95, and his team have been selected to receive the USDA Secretary's Honor Award. This award recognizes employee excellence in helping the USDA achieve its strategic goals.

Monisha Mitchell, BSCJ'96, was nominated for the American Heart Association Women of Impact Award. She strives to raise awareness for her rare congenital heart defect.

Bob Grewe, BSPA'85, MPA'97, was selected as the new executive director of Daviess County Economic Development Corporation.

Katie Culp, BSPA'99, was named to the *Indiana Business Journal's* "Indiana 250" honorees list.

2000s

Laura Boeckman, MPA-JD'01, was appointed to the board of the Florida Bar Association.

Victor Cardenas, MPA'03, was named the Novi City Manager.

Scott Fadness, MPA'07, was named to the *Indiana Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40 Alumni of the Year" list.

2010s

Brian Steed, Ph.D.'10, was named commissioner of the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Portia Bailey-Bernard, BSPA'13, was named to the *Indiana Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40" list.

Jessica Hardison Weaver, MPA'13, was announced as NCAA Division II Pacific West Conference commissioner.

Ashley Gurvitz, BSPA'16, was named to the *Indiana Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40" list.

Ameen Mahasin, BSPA'11, Grad. Cert.'16, was named to the *Indiana Business Journal's* "Forty Under 40" list.

2020s

Xander Sobecki, MPA'20, won the American Society of Association Executives 40 Under 40 Award as the marketing and communications director at the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. The award honors outstanding association and nonprofit professionals for their professional accomplishments, commitment to the industry, leadership skills, and continued potential in their field.

Diamond Curry, BSPA'20, MPA'22, joined the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce in South Carolina as manager of local government affairs.

Distinguished Alumni Service Awards



Jason D. Dudich, BSPA'01

Jason D. Dudich is the associate vice president for finance and economic strategy at Indiana University where he advances the university's economic engagement initiatives and government relations efforts. Prior to IU, he worked in a variety of budgetary and leadership roles for the state of Indiana, city of Indianapolis, and the University of Indianapolis. At IU, Dudich is a member of the O'Neill School's Distinguished Alumni Council and IU Alumni Association's Board of Managers.



Deanna Oware, MPA'00

Deanna Oware is the chief financial officer for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the commonwealth of Virginia, where she oversees the department's \$1 billion budget. She also leads financial programming, financial reporting, fiscal operations, and audit. Previously, Oware was the CFO for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Since graduating from the O'Neill School, Oware has exclusively worked for state governments, serving in leadership roles in multiple agencies.



O'Neill alum takes the cake

Martin Sorge wins Great American Baking Show

Martin Sorge, MPA'11, founder and CEO of Argyle Advising, was one of nine contestants to compete in *The Great American Baking Show* that aired in May on the Roku Channel. Not only did he compete, he won! The show is the American version of the beloved *Great British Baking Show* and brought together passionate, talented bakers from around the country to see who would be named America's best amateur baker.

Sorge was willing to share one of his winning recipes with the O'Neill family.

"Shortbread is my ideal cookie: not too sweet, very buttery, simple to make, and easy to share," Sorge said. "This version of shortbread was inspired by my most indelible Hoosier food memory: summer sweet corn. Slathered with butter and sprinkled with salt, nothing tastes better than corn on the cob. These cookies come close.

"I have one tip for aspiring or seasoned bakers: get a scale and weigh your ingredients. O'Neill students will appreciate the importance of accuracy. Professional bakers and home bakers in almost every other country measure ingredients in grams, so let's get on board. The magic ingredient in these cookies is freeze-dried sweet corn, which imparts that fresh sweet corn flavor. You can buy it online or from some grocery stores."

For more recipes and baking adventures, follow Sorge on Instagram at @martinsorge or visit martinbakes.com.

Sweet Corn Shortbread Cookies

By Martin Sorge

Makes about 28 1 1/2-inch cookies.

115 grams (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
50 grams (1/4 cup) plus 1 table-spoon sugar, divided
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
40 grams freeze-dried sweet corn powder or 40 grams freeze-dried sweet corn, very finely ground in a spice grinder or food processor
40 grams finely ground cornmeal
120 grams (1 cup) flour
Pinch of flaky sea salt, for sprinkling (optional)

In a large mixing bowl, stir the butter vigorously with a wooden spoon until smooth and very creamy, about 2–3 minutes. Then add the salt, 50 grams of sugar, and vanilla extract and stir until evenly combined, about 1 minute. (You do not want to beat in any air like with most other cookies.) In a medium bowl combine the freeze-dried sweet corn powder, cornmeal, and flour then whisk to combine. Add all of the dry mixture to the butter and stir to combine. Stop mixing when you don't see any streaks of butter. (You can also do this mixing with a stand mixer if you have one.) Gather the dough up into a ball and place it on a piece of

parchment paper about the size of your baking sheet. With your hands, flatten the dough into a rough rectangle. Put another sheet of parchment on top of the dough, and use a rolling pin to roll it until it's 1/4-inch thick. Slide the parchment and dough onto the baking sheet, and chill it in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes (up to 4 hours), until it feels firm.

Remove the dough from the refrigerator and carefully slide the sheet of dough from the baking sheet to your counter. Peel off the top layer of parchment paper and place it back onto the baking sheet. Use a round cookie cutter and cut out 1 1/2-inch circles. (If you don't have cookie cutters, use a long knife or pizza wheel and simply cut the dough into rectangles, about 1 inch by 2 inches.) After cutting the cookies, place them on the parchment-lined baking sheet and refrigerate the cookies for at least 30 minutes. Take the scraps of dough and re-roll it to cut out more cookies.

Preheat the oven to 350F with the rack on the top third of the oven. Just before baking, sprinkle the cookies with about 1 tablespoon of granulated sugar and a pinch of flaky salt (if using). Bake at 350F for 14–16 minutes, until lightly golden brown on the edges. Cool the cookies for 5 minutes on the pan, then move them on a wire rack to cool completely. These cookies will last for 3–4 days if kept in an airtight container.

New Alumni STORIES



Community response program makes a difference

In 2019, **Alicia Dinkeldein**, BSCJ'22, was inspired when she learned about community-based approaches to policing in her Principles of Public Safety class.

"I realized that was what I wanted to do," she said. "I wanted to make one-on-one connections with people to figure

out what they truly needed so I could help them."

At the time, Dinkeldein was pursuing her criminal justice degree while also working for the Indianapolis EMS Ambulance Service. She became part of IEMS' community response team at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, following up with people who called 911 but didn't meet the criteria for ambulance transport.

Their work expanded to serving the city's new satellite homeless shelters, and the team's person-centered approach began reducing 911 calls.

Dinkeldein's unique skillset equipped her to assess someone's medical situation, help them apply for Medicaid, deliver their prescriptions, make doctor appointments, and even work to address any justice system-related barriers they may face in addressing their health.

After the sites closed, the chief of operations at IEMS asked Dinkeldein to take the same approach at Wheeler Mission's East Market Street location in Indianapolis—the source of the city's highest 911 call volume.

"In the first three months of me being here, our run volume decreased by 15%," she said. "That was huge."

She started additional partner programs, including therapy dog sessions, supply donations, health classes, overdose training, and mental health resources.

The results of that work have caught the attention of others in the first responder field and Dinkeldein has been invited to speak at state and national events about her program and approach.

"This program has a really bright future," she said. "And it really isn't about me. It's about making sure people get the help they actually need."



Empowering the incarcerated through education

In the fall of 2022, the IU Prison Arts Initiative (IUPAI) launched, aiming to provide incarcerated individuals with college-level education. This innovative program facilitates courses in prisons taught by IU instructors and grad students. One initial course, "Drawing Your

Story: The Fundamentals of Drawing and Illustration," exemplifies this groundbreaking initiative.

To prepare, **Oliver Nell**, MAAA'23, IUPAI's program coordinator, met with directors of comparable programs and Department of Corrections representatives for training. But despite that, the team was not fully prepared for the challenges that would arise.

"You can't replicate it until you're in the facility with the students, talking to them, learning from them," Nell said. "You are dealing with the things that come up in a prison and learning on the fly."

Nell and the team gained valuable insights from the incarcerated students, who cherished the opportunity for creativity. The art class served as an escape from prison's confines, fostering self-expression and confidence. The students couldn't wait to go to class.

"Art is therapeutic, and it's expressive, and it puts a value on people's identities and people's stories," Nell said.

The student's assignments and class critiques provided a rare chance for positive feedback, further highlighting the program's significance.

Nell strongly believes in the transformative power of education and advocates for access to learning for all. He underscores this often-overlooked population's need for knowledge access.

"There are, of course, plenty of populations in as much need but we felt like our local incarcerated populations were within our reach," Nell said. "IU and all state universities are there to serve the people of their state. Often, incarcerated populations are overlooked, even though they are citizens. Our goals are to continue expanding and getting funding and making prison education more a part of what IU does."

Arbutus SOCIETY



Over the four decades of my professional career, I have had the opportunity to be a part of great organizations, work alongside outstanding people, and benefit from experiences with global companies.

None of these things would have occurred without my education at the O'Neill School. Indiana University provided me with valuable experiences, which prepared me for life.

Upon reflecting, I wanted to take the initiative to provide resources that would enable future students to gain access to high-quality faculty and incredible experiences and receive an amazing education.

I am confident the O'Neill School will continue to produce quality graduates who will depart campus to go out and change the world. However, we need to ensure an ongoing conduit of resources to make the dreams of these students become a reality.

I highly recommend any graduate of O'Neill to consider including the school in their estate plan. Your vision and generosity will support students through future generations to produce O'Neill alums who will continue to change the world.

Steve Eller

BS'84, Administration
Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer
(emeritus), Beacon Health System

The Arbutus Society recognizes our alumni and friends who let us know that they intend to invest in the future of Indiana University and the O'Neill School through a planned or deferred gift. To join the Arbutus Society, please contact Lori Garraghty at (812) 855-6802 or llarnold@indiana.edu.

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Honor ROLL

The O'Neill School's status as an academic leader is due, in part, to the generous support of alumni, friends, and organizations who invest in the future of the school. The O'Neill School would like to thank and recognize the donors of 2022.

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