

MOTHER MCAULEY CAREER DAY 2023

PARTICIPANT BIOS

Updated on October 20, 2023.



HEALTHCARE

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Biology from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Psychology from University of Wisconsin-Madison; PhD in Clinical Psychology from Illinois Institute of Technology

Location

Table #25

COURTENAY ROURKE AINSWORTH '92

Pediatric Neuropsychologist at BrainTree Neuropsychological Services

Courtenay founded a private practice where she conducts neuropsychological evaluations with children. The medical evaluations assign a diagnosis for neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism, Dyslexia or other learning disabilities, and/or ADHD. After 2 years of post-doctoral training, Courtenay opened her private practice and started her dream job!

McAuley Impact

"I believe that McAuley teaches students that we deserve a seat at the table. As a woman in the medical field, it was important to me to continue my education so that my voice would be heard, particularly as I advocated for children with disabilities and their families. It was also at McAuley that I developed a passion for working with children with disabilities when I completed my service hours through Special Olympics!"



S.T.E.M./BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Business from Western Michigan University

Location

Table #36

MADDIE ALLEN '14

Business System Analyst at Stericycle

Maddie is a detail-oriented analyst with a proven ability to direct and develop process flows that operate at executive levels. She is a liaison between executive leadership including CIO/CFO to team members in procurement, sourcing, enterprise architecture, data protection, business units and vendors to confirm that all suppliers and applications are secure, providing visibility to multiple departments within the company. Ensuring proper evaluations have been completed from finance, sourcing, and technical perspectives before IT purchases are complete is an additional task I oversee. She has an extensive history working in marketing that involved managing and successfully executing all marketing strategies, including print publications, website enhancements, all aspects of trade show, and events.

McAuley Impact

"I can confidentially say that my time at Mother McAuley has impacted my career in only positive ways. Though I may not have realized it at the time, McAuley nurtured me to build the personal and professional confidence I have today. Group assignments forced social interaction and communication skills which I now use daily. Presentations guided me not only for public speaking events, but also for researching, outlining, and preparing for any project to be as knowledgeable on the topic as I could be. Overall, McAuley broke me out of my shell in the best way possible, and I promise there is no stronger bond than McAuley girls!"



DR. ANGELICA SANCHEZ AMBROSINO '07

Dentist at Romo Dental

Angelica began working in the dental field 17 years ago. She started as a receptionist and then assistant. While working in the dental office, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in dentistry so she completed her undergraduate degree at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. In 2011, she attended Marquette University School of Dentistry in Milwaukee, WI. Since graduating in 2015, she returned home and began working in private practices in Chicago and suburbs of Chicago. She is an active member of the American Dental Association, Chicago Dental Society, Illinois State Dental Society, and Hispanic Dental Association.

McAuley Impact

"There is not a distinct moment that my McAuley education empowered me because throughout my educational journey, from the quality of my studies to establishing good studying habits, I knew McAuley provided me a foundation to succeed. While attending McAuley, I was never afraid to learn. McAuley challenged me and encouraged me to take pride in my work. For me, hard work equaled accomplishing goals. My McAuley education empowered me in ways that allowed me to pursue my career without hesitation. I can recall one moment when asked in college, "What is your plan B if you do not get into dental school?" I was baffled by the question because it never occurred to me to have a back up plan for my career. I knew dental school had a competitive application process, but I knew how much effort and hard work I had put into my studies and that journey started at McAuley. Even today, I find myself going back to lessons I learned at McAuley."

LAUREN MARCIANO BEIL '05

Director of Sales at Echo Global Logistics

Lauren started her career at Echo Global Logistics in April of 2010 as a client sales representative. She was responsible for providing transportation solutions for new and existing clients. She pivoted to Carrier Sales 3 years later where she was responsible for building a network of carrier relationships to provide service for their clients freight. After spending 2 years in carrier sales, she moved into management where she was Carrier Procurement/ Business Development Manager. She was then promoted to a Carrier Sales Manager where she moved out to Dallas, TX to build up the branches' Carrier Sales Department. After 4 years, she returned back to Chicago and was promoted to Sr. Carrier Sales Manager and then onto Director of Carrier Sales where she oversees three teams in the United States and one in MX. She has been with the company for almost 14 years.

McAuley Impact

"There is not one specific story I have in mind when McAuley education empowered me in my career because without McAuley's empowerment in general I don't think I would be as successful as I am today. My industry is very male dominated and while that has never been a hurdle for me- through McAuley's education, culture and athletics I learned that I always have a seat at the table- I just have to find the courage and confidence to pull my chair up to it."

HEALTHCARE

Education

Doctorate of Dental Surgery from
Marquette University School of Dentistry

Location

Table #38



S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Communications
from St. Norbert College

Location

Table #35



MAUREEN ORAWIEC BEST '97

Assistant Professor at Saint Xavier University

Dr. Maureen Orawiec Best has worked as a speech-language pathologist for over 20 years in diverse settings with clients from birth to 104 years of age with myriad speech, language, cognitive, feeding, and swallowing disorders. Currently, she works as an assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders at Saint Xavier University. Prior to joining the faculty at SXU, Dr. Best founded an educational consulting firm, Creative Solutions for Education Group, which provides support to school districts, leadership training, and special education advocacy services. Dr. Best currently holds a certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), an Illinois professional educator license in speech-language pathology and is a licensed speech-language pathologist in the state of Illinois. Her current research interests and areas of specialization include language and literacy, AAC, and evidence-based IEP development.

McAuley Impact

"I had the privilege of taking Little School while at McAuley. At that time we learned about early childhood education and taught preschool as part of the class. One of my Little Schoolers had a disability and I greatly enjoyed discovering how to engage her in learning and make her feel safe at school. My incredible Little School experience made me realize that special education was an area I needed to explore more. McAuley also taught me to have a strong voice, a heart for service, and a passion for advocacy. All of those experiences have helped me excel academically in higher education and in my career. It also ignited my desire to help others receive the education they deserve. Of all the education I have received, McAuley taught me the most, gave me the most confidence, and inspired me to be a lifelong learner."

MARY CARBERRY BLACK '79

Teen Librarian at Evergreen Park Public Library

Mary is a knowledgeable professional librarian with extensive experience in the public library environment. Dedicated in her service to the community by promoting literacy in local areas through outreach programs, school partnerships, leading the annual Summer Learning Challenge, and hosting author-led events. She has broad experience developing new initiatives designed to meet the needs of students, teachers, parents, and special populations. A lifelong learner with limitless curiosity and creativity. As a Young Adult Services Coordinator, she oversees teen programming including planning, publicizing, conducting, and evaluating a variety of programs including author visits, STEM events, annual Summer Learning Challenge and career panels.

McAuley Impact

"I'm so grateful for the rigorous education I received at Mother McAuley! I remain a passionate proponent of single-gender education where girls can find their voice! I just purchased a "McAuley Girl" sweatshirt for my 3-year-old granddaughter. Go Macs."

EDUCATION

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Western Illinois University; Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Indiana University; PhD in Language and Literacy from Cardinal Stritch University

Location

Table #20

EDUCATION

Education

Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Chicago State University

Location

Table #19



KATHERINE BROWN '12

Impact & Innovation Director at Crisis Center for South Suburbia

Katie Brown is the Impact and Innovation Director at the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, the largest domestic violence service agency in the south suburbs of Chicago. She is responsible for grants and impact management, data integrity, government affairs, and public policy. Since joining CCSS two years ago, the agency's budget has increased by 51%. Prior to joining the nonprofit field, she served as an intelligence and international security analyst in a number of roles.

NON-PROFIT

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Master's Degree in European Union Studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Location

Table #33

McAuley Impact

"Two teachers at Mother McAuley encouraged me to pursue in education and career what interested me - rather than what major would pay the most. Mrs. Fox and Ms. McCormick were phenomenal teachers. I used to challenge Mrs. Fox whenever an opinion was required. Ms. McCormick's role as leader of the McAuley Model United Nations club is what really kick started it all. I had an actual passion for learning more about international relations...it was the first time I ever understood the saying, "do what energizes you and it won't feel like work." It was an experience I chased straight into college. I transferred to Mother McAuley my sophomore year. The school I transferred from did not have half the opportunities and clubs that McAuley had. It is because I transferred to McAuley that I found passion for something - and everything else after that clicked into place naturally."



STEFANIE BURT '11

Media Sales Specialist at Chicago Public Media

Stefanie is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable leader with 8+ years of experience in sales, account management & business development. She has a proven track record of driving revenue growth while establishing valuable relationships with internal and external stakeholders. She proudly represents industry-leading companies and globally renowned brands with poise, integrity, and positivity.

McAuley Impact

"Anytime I am asked to speak at an event, or in front of a group my McAuley education comes into play. Mother McAuley gave me the confidence to speak my mind, and proudly stand for what I believe in or what I think without fear of judgment. My McAuley education gives me the strength to powerfully and confidently speak in any situation. I would not be where I am today without that ability."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in International Business from the University of Missouri

Location

Table #64

HEALTHCARE

Education

Bachelor's Degree from Saint Mary's College in South Bend, IN; Doctorate of Optometry from Illinois College of Optometry

Location

Table #66



HEALTHCARE

Education

Master's Degree in Marital and Family Therapy from the University of San Diego

Location

Table #42

ELIZABETH BUSH, OD '04

Optometrist at Bush Family Eye Care

Elizabeth is an optometrist currently practicing at Bush Family Eye Care, a family practice. She started practicing in the summer of 2012. She is currently practicing with her sister Dr. Eileen Bush and Dr. Gamboa. Elizabeth and her sister are fortunate to be the third generation to be practicing at Bush Family Eye Care.

McAuley Impact

"Mother McAuley empowered me to follow my dreams and realize that the stars are the limit. My education gave me the confidence to use my voice and leadership skills to make a lasting difference not only in optometry but also the world."

ANITA CHLIPALA '98

Dating and Relationship Therapist / Owner of Relationship Reality 312, Inc.

Anita Chlipala believes everyone can have a happy and satisfying relationship and she's on a mission to prove it. She has been featured on WGN Radio, CBS, and Fox 32, and frequently quoted in publications such as Oprah Magazine, Cosmopolitan, the Chicago Tribune, Today, Harper's Bazaar, Martha Stewart Weddings, Brides, HuffPost, Men's Health, Elle, and Glamour. Anita is the author of *First Comes Us: The Busy Couple's Guide to Lasting Love*, a 365-day tip book that offers practical and quick tips to help couples stay connected and make their love last. She is the founder of Relationship Reality 312, a therapy practice that focuses on teaching singles and couples the information and tools to have a healthy relationship. Anita is a licensed marriage and family therapist and received her master's degree in Marital and Family Therapy from the University of San Diego.

McAuley Impact

"Mrs. McAuliffe asked me to join Inscape and that set off a cascade of events in my life that landed me where I am today. To have someone believe in me, support me, and see my potential was a game-changer in my life. Working at the newspaper gave me the confidence to continually take risks and I am forever grateful for my years at McAuley."



LEGAL

Education

Bachelor's Degree from Mundelein College; Juris Doctorate Degree from Northern Illinois University

Location

Table #15

HON. GLORIA COCO, RET. '68

Supervising Judge of the Domestic Violence Section at Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Ret.; Adjunct Professor of Law at IIT-Chicago Kent College of Law

Gloria Coco is the retired Supervising Judge of the Domestic Violence Section, of the First Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois. She was appointed Supervising Judge in 1997 and has served in the Domestic Violence Division since 1994. As Supervising Judge, Judge Coco oversaw 5 courtrooms handling approximately 53,000 Domestic Violence cases per year from the City of Chicago. She was appointed Judge of the Circuit Court in 1991, and retired in 2007. Prior to her appointment to the bench in 1991, Judge Coco was an attorney with the City of Chicago, Department of Buildings. There, she established and served as Director of the Department's Code Enforcement Bureau, creating the "Code Enforcement Bureau," an administration hearing review process, which addresses building code violations. Judge Coco also served as Deputy Chief of the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

She moved to Los Angeles to pursue her passion for writing and acting. She is an accomplished playwright and actress, having penned and performed the one woman play, *Passage of Grace*. She appeared on the TNT's *Southland* a fast-paced drama about a police unit in Los Angeles. She also served as a legal tech advisor for the series *The Defenders* with Jim Belushi and Jerry O'Connell.

CLAIRE CUNNINGHAM '15

Attorney at Beermann LLP

Claire Cunningham is a compassionate and zealous advocate, focusing her practice primarily on divorce and family law issues, including parenting time, child support, division of property, adoption, intimate partner violence and domestic violence, as well as a range of other family related issues. Before working in family law, she worked as a Policy Fellow in the Chicago Mayor's Office, where she mainly focused on policies regarding sexual and domestic violence.

McAuley Impact

"I occasionally bump into other attorneys that are Mother McAuley graduates! It is inspiring to see Mighty Macs in the courtroom."



LEGAL

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Women's and Gender Studies, and Theatre; Juris Doctorate Degree from UIC Law

Location

Table #14



LISA ROONEY DOODY '81

Speech Pathologist at Advocate Children's Hospital

Lisa's career started in the hospital setting working with adults who had suffered a stroke. It morphed slowly from all adults to a mix of adults and children as she began home health work and clinic work. Then for the past 15 years, her focus has been pediatric based in a children's hospital, to promote successful oral feeding for infants and children with medical diagnosis such as CHD (congenital heart defect), cleft palate, respiratory illnesses such as RSV, and trauma. She also takes part in developmental assessments for children from 0-3. She works alongside a team of professionals to address the needs of children and their families.

HEALTHCARE

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Women's and Gender Studies, and Theatre; Juris Doctorate Degree from UIC Law

Location

Table #28

McAuley Impact

"I believe Mother McAuley helped empower my ability to see myself as an independent person who could make a goal and achieve it."



EILEEN HODOROWICZ DOWDALL '89

Clinical Faculty at Saint Xavier University; Clinical Education Scholar at OSF - Little Company of Mary Medical Center; Diabetes Educator at UChicago Medicine

Eileen has been a nurse for 23 years and in healthcare for a total of 28. Currently, she teaches in the hospital supporting and empowering nurses as a Clinical Education Scholar. When she is at the bedside teaching about diabetes to patients and their families, as a Diabetes Educator, she instills in them the knowledge and survival skills to manage and care for themselves outside of the hospital. When she is teaching and working with nursing students, as a clinical instructor, her focus is to teach the clinical component of a didactic course guiding the student nurse through real-world training and experiences.

HEALTHCARE

Education

Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Lewis University; Master of Science in Nursing - Clinical Leader Program from Saint Xavier University

Location

Table #41

She is an active member with the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses (AMSNN), the National League for Nursing (NLN), the Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES), and the American Nurse Association (ANA).



ANNIE DUFFY '16

Occupational Therapist at Little You Inc.

After graduating from McAuley in 2016, Annie attended Saint Louis University, where she was accepted into their direct admit occupational therapy program. This program allowed her to begin her OT courses from the start and graduate with her Master's degree in 5 years. She graduated in May 2021 after completing 2 clinical rotations. Then, she studied for about 2 months before taking her national board certification exam. Upon passing, she began working for Little You Inc., in Mount Greenwood, in the Fall of 2021. Little You is a private pediatric clinic owned by a fellow MMC Alum. The clinic provides both speech and occupational therapy services. They see clients from birth to early teenage years. Each therapist sees a caseload of 7 clients per day. Annie absolutely adores the pediatric population. Every day is different, and Annie gets to play and be creative with kids while helping them learn and grow in their daily lives.

HEALTHCARE

Education

Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy
from Saint Louis University

Study Abroad

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus

Location

Table #24



CHRIS CANAVAN DUFFY '86

VP of Global Supply Chain - Direct Sales Strategic Markets at Cintas

Chris is an executive leader in Operations, Supply Chain and Sales with a demonstrated history of success in apparel and the service industry. She is skilled in Negotiation, Operations Management, Coaching, Sales and Motivational Leadership. She is passionate about professional development with a focus on building a personal brand.

McAuley Impact

"McAuley gave me the opportunity to learn who I am and embrace everything that made me special. Confidence is critical to success and McAuley gave me that in spades."

SERVICE INDUSTRY

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Communications
from University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign

Location

Table #44



REAL ESTATE

Education

Bachelor's Degree in English & Secondary Education from University of Iowa;
Master's Degree in Education Administration & Supervision from Saint Xavier University

Location

Table #13

MARY FITZPATRICK DULEBA '98

Real Estate Agent at Berkshire Hathaway's The Fitzpatrick Team

Mary Fitzpatrick Duleba has been bringing home buyers and sellers together for nearly 20 years. As a full time partner of The Fitzpatrick Team at BHHS Chicago, Mary works alongside her dad, Bob Fitzpatrick, and has helped close over \$300 million in transactions since becoming a broker. The Fitzpatrick Team is a member of the BHHS Chairman's Circle Gold (top 2% of agents nationwide), the Prudential Chairman's Circle, the Multi-Million Dollar Club, and is also a recipient of the Leading Edge Award, President's Award, and Chairman's Circle Award. Her expertise and work ethic are unmatched. Mary holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Iowa and a Master's Degree from St. Xavier University. This past year alone, she has helped close over 76 transactions and over \$15 million in sales on the Fitzpatrick Team. Together, Bob and Mary have been working side by side to ensure their buyers and sellers have an advantage in this market and the absolute best possible attention and service.

McAuley Impact

"My McAuley education taught me to be bold and to take career risks. After adding "mom" to my resume, I was able to easily pivot from a career in secondary education to a career in real estate so I could better manage my family life. I have never felt anything but flexible, capable, and successful in everything I have done. McAuley prepared me to be a life-long learner and to always trust that my knowledge and work ethic will allow me to succeed at whatever I choose."



BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Business from the University of Notre Dame

Study Abroad

Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France

Location

Table #65

REGINA ENGEL '12

General Manager of Operations at Amazon

Regina started her career in July 2016 as a university hire Area Manager in Amazon's last mile operation-Amazon Logistics. After becoming a network subject matter expert and leading multiple building performance turnarounds, Regina promoted to an Area Manager II, an Operations Manager, a Site Leader, a Senior Regional Leader, and a General Manager- 5 promotions in 5 years, hitting the executive level at Amazon at the age of 28. Until recently, Regina was responsible for 9 delivery stations across Chicagoland and Milwaukee, with over 200 salaried leaders and 5000 employees and third party drivers. As of the end of August, Regina is now responsible for Amazon deliveries in the state of Michigan.

McAuley Impact

"My experience at McAuley consistently empowers me within my career in Operations, which is a male-dominated field. I am one of the ten women who are regional leaders in Amazon Logistics North America, compared to the fifty men who are regional leaders. I am an executive sponsor for the Amazon Logistics chapter of the Women at Amazon affinity group which consists of thousands of members to continue to get more women into the industry and support women in the industry."

LEGAL

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University; Juris Doctorate Degree from The John Marshall Law School; Certified Court Manager from the National Center for State Courts

Location

Table #9

MICHELLE FORBES '86

Court Administrator and Staff Attorney at The Presiding Judges Office Bridgeview Courthouse

Michelle worked as a Victim Advocate for the Cook County State's Attorney Office 1990-2000, specializing in Domestic Violence, Homicide and Sexual Assault Cases. She worked as a 911 Dispatcher for the Hometown Police Department. Then, she worked as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney Office and most recently worked at the Law Offices of Michelle T. Forbes specializing in Criminal Defense and Real Estate Law. She is currently the Court Administrator and Attorney for the Presiding Judges Office of the Fifth Municipal District.

McAuley Impact

"I decided to go to Law school about 10 years after I graduated college (I was 30 years old). My education at McAuley gave me the courage and strength to start something new. I knew that because of my education at McAuley I could accomplish anything I put my mind to."

TIFFANY FORTUNE '12

Guest Service Agent at Nobu Hotel Chicago

Tiffany has worked within the customer service 10+ years. Her center focus was heavily concentrated within restaurants, until she decided to elevate and take her passion for customer service to new heights. Upon entering the field of Hospitality at Nobu Hotel Chicago (A five star hotel located in the West Loop) the environment felt like a perfect match. As a Guest Service Agent she enjoys being hands on and personable with the hotel clientele. Making and building connections while maintaining her professionalism in a luxury environment is nothing short of a dream. Her job is to tailor guest experience. She ensures that the guest walk in feeling at home and leaving feeling a part of a family. Tiffany's career goals are to move up within the company. A managerial role is the challenge and fulfillment she seeks. She does not know how far up her career in Hospitality will go, but she is excited for this new chapter of newfound knowledge and challenges.

McAuley Impact

"My company is an extremely male dominated field. It is extremely competitive. McAuley gave me the confidence and empowered me to feel strong in my mind, knowledge and decisions while navigating through this workforce."



SERVICE INDUSTRY '12

Education

Bachelor's of Art in Photography from University of Missouri - Columbia

Location

Table #45



SERVICE INDUSTRY

Education

Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Chicago

Location

Table #23

GRACE TULLY FULLER '98

General Manager at City Cruises

Grace Tully Fuller is a dynamic professional with a rich background in the hospitality industry. Grace pursued her passion for culinary arts and operations management at The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago, where she proudly graduated from Le Cordon Bleu in 2001. Her career took flight as she joined Atlantic Coast Airlines as a Flight Attendant from 2002 to 2003, gaining valuable customer service experience. Then, Grace's passion for hospitality truly blossomed during her tenure as the Restaurant Director at The Signature Room at the 95th from 2003 to 2006. Since 2006, she has been a stalwart presence at City Cruises (formerly known as Premier Yachts and Entertainment Cruises), where she currently serves as the General Manager and during this time earned the distinguished title of Level I Sommelier. Grace's dedication to her family and her unwavering belief in the potential of women make her a remarkable role model in the world of hospitality.

McAuley Impact

Grace's formative years at Mother McAuley instilled in her a strong sense of leadership, paving the way for her successful career. She believes in the power of women in leadership and is committed to passing on this legacy to her daughter, Violet Fuller, who is set to follow in her footsteps at Mother McAuley.



BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Business from St. Mary's University Winona, MN; MBA from the University of Notre Dame

Location

Table #47

LIZ DOODY GORMAN '83

Director of the Regional Transportation Authority

Liz serves as a Director on RTA Board and Old Plank Trail Bank (a Wintrust Bank). She consults to achieve energy, utility and operational savings funded by performance-based contracting allowing agencies and organizations to reinvest realized savings into energy efficient capital projects satisfying government and corporate missions, while fulfilling green energy obligations. Liz was appointed Executive Director of IL Tollway. Her extensive range in the public and private sector led to this coveted appointment to oversee the management of nearly 1,500 employees and the operation of the 294-mile Tollway system that serves 1.6M daily drivers and generates \$1.4B in annual revenue. Liz was in PwC's US State and Local Government Advisory Practice, focusing on the Greater Chicago Region. She is a 4-term elected (2002-2015) Cook County and Forest Preserve Commissioner with over 13 years of Cook County government and political experience.

McAuley Impact

"The overall McAuley experience was present and impactful while advancing through college, business and family. Going through high school, I didn't realize the importance of a McAuley education because I was enjoying the social experience. But as life progress, I took my independence, confidence and experiences that allowed me to have the courage to realize that I can compete in a Man's world at any level. I was never intimidated and found comfort in my personality, background and skills to bring reasoned solutions to tasks. I always enjoy entering a meeting or Board Room when guys say, "You're a McAuley Girl" --it is a respected statement because it means perseverance, independence, common sense."



S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Study Abroad

Dublin, Ireland

Location

Table #31



S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree from St. Ambrose University; MBA from DePaul University; PhD in Engineering (in progress)

Study Abroad

Maynooth, Ireland (Undergrad)
Galway, Ireland (Master's)

Location

Table #36

MAURA GRIBBLE '18

Application/Solution Programmer at Motorola Solutions

After graduating from McAuley, Maura started her mechanical engineering degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. At the end of her sophomore year of college, she landed an internship with Motorola in their Champaign office and worked there for a year. There she found she was much more drawn to a software engineering path rather than a typical mechanical engineering job. A year later, she decided to continue her post-grad career at Motorola Solutions, where she currently works in the product orderability department. Her role includes working with product managers to modify the ordering website as products change, as well as developing automated tools to test the ordering process.

McAuley Impact

"During my senior year at McAuley, I went on a field trip with my AP calc class to tour Motorola Solution's downtown office. I had recently been accepted to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for engineering, but was unsure if that was the path I wanted to choose. That field trip gave me a lot of insight to how versatile an engineering degree is, so I decided to pursue mechanical engineering at U of I. At the end of my sophomore year of college, I applied to an internship at Motorola because of my positive experience I had with the McAuley field trip. I ended up interning at Motorola for a year during junior year of college, and now have been in my full time role there for a year and a half."

COLEEN GRIFFIN '95

Director - IT Data & Analytics at Stericycle

Coleen is a Data & Analytics expert and strategic technology leader experienced in aligning and employing technology to achieve business objectives globally. Coleen understands the technology and business requirements needed to bridge the gap and speak at levels both sides can understand. She is able to work effectively within cross-functional teams, and independently to achieve goals for global organizations. Coleen interacts well with internal and external clients, with all levels of employees up to C-level executives. She is a skilled inspirational leader and mentor, driving teams toward high-performance standards, and maintaining a firm conviction in methodology, structure, and reporting transparency.

Coleen studied in Ireland for a semester at Maynooth University during undergrad, received a Masters degree in Computer Science in Ireland, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Engineering in Ireland, expected graduation in 2026. She also worked and studied at the University of Galway. Organically recruited 17 students to pursue graduate degrees in Ireland, Colleen recommends students to study abroad in programs where they are integrating with home-country students for several months to immerse into the experience.

BUSINESS

Education

Saint Xavier University

Location

Table #62



BETTY HARN '82

Executive Vice President at Marquette Bank

ANNIE HART

Superintendent of Business at West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA)

Annie Hart is the Superintendent of Business at WSSRA. She completed her bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation at Western Illinois University. After graduating she worked in a few alternative high schools as a Recreation Specialist. After 15 years, Annie started serving WSSRA as a Recreation Specialist. She moved her way up the ranks to Staff Manager, Inclusion Manager, Superintendent of Recreation and now Superintendent of Business.

EDUCATION

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Western Illinois University

Location

Table #18



LIZBETH LINARES HERRERA '95

Insurance Agency Owner of Linares Insurance Group

Libby is a proud Chicago native from Little Village. She is an alumna of DePaul University, where she received her bachelor of science, double majoring in finance and entrepreneurship. For the past 20 years, she has helped both families and business owners protect what is most important to them. Linares Insurance Agency helps clients by providing auto, home, and life insurance and financial services. We help educate families and businesses to protect what matters the most to them. Libby is a mother of three, a wife, sister and has lived and served in the Berwyn/Riverside area for 30 years. When she is not advising clients, she volunteers at New Life Community Church and as a volleyball coach at St. Mary's.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Finance from DePaul University

Study Abroad

Madrid, Spain

Location

Table #51

McAuley Impact

"McAuley helped me to be assertive and go after my career goals. Majoring in finance and being the only women in an industry dominated by men didn't intimidate me. My education at McAuley empowered me not only to focus on my career in the insurance and financial services industry but to also help other women grow in this industry. Being a McAuley Alumna helped make me the confident female entrepreneur I am today."



EDUCATION/S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Saint Louis University; Master's Degree in Biology from Miami University

Study Abroad

2 weeks in Belize investigating coral reefs, manatees, howler monkeys, jaguars, and other wildlife, while also learning the methods communities are using to sustain them

Location

Table #37



NON-PROFIT

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Master's Degree in Reading/Reading Specialist from Northeastern Illinois University

Location

Table #12

NICOLE FILIPPONE HODUR '09

Manager of Child & Family Learning at Lincoln Park Zoo

Nicole Hodur is an informal educator in the conservation sector with a passion for encouraging children and their families to spend time in nature. Having moved from the formal education world, Nicole has built a reputation for developing programs that inspire a wide variety of audiences to connect with wildlife. She is a dedicated and accomplished educator known for her reliability, inclusion, and creativity.

McAuley Impact

"My time at McAuley gave me the confidence to share my thoughts and opinions, while also developing empathy for the thoughts and opinions of others. So grateful for my 4 years on 99th Street!"

DIANE CALLAGHAN HUSAR '85

Founder of GiGi's Playhouse Tinley Park

Diane worked with children in a variety of different fields, from Youth Coordinator onboard a cruise ship, to Director of Child Development for the Eugene Family YMCA in Oregon, to Chicago Public School Teacher for thirteen beautiful years. It was only when her son Luke was born in 2007 and diagnosed with Down syndrome that she turned her focus and energy towards bringing a GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center to the south suburbs of Chicago. This non-profit organization that opened their doors in 2013. They just celebrated their tenth year of providing free educational and therapeutic services to over 350 registered families.

McAuley Impact

"I attribute my four years at Mother McAuley to having more of a positive impact on my life than any of my other years in school. McAuley empowered me, taught me to believe in myself, helped me to grow as a student, and gave me the confidence to believe I could accomplish anything I focused my energy on. I was surrounded by proud teachers and fellow students. My mom always used to say that you could tell a McAuley girl by the way she walked into a room, and I must agree. There is something very special about our school. It is a gift to the community. McAuley is all about support, belief and empowerment."



SEAN HYNES, CFA, CAIA

Assistant Vice President, Portfolio Manager for Jackson National Asset Management (JNAM)

The JNAM investment management team oversees \$245 billion in assets, including \$31.8 billion in multi-manager and allocation funds. Sean is a portfolio manager for these funds and responsible for asset allocation and investment manager selection.

Sean joined JNAM in April 2013, and leads the research effort in international equities in addition to his fund-of-fund portfolio management responsibilities. Previously, he was an Investment Manager for Morningstar Investment Services and a research associate for Managers Investment Group. Prior to Managers Investment Group, he worked as a senior network manager for ADM Investor Services, Inc. and as a senior project analyst for Lante Corporation. Sean holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University, and is a CFA and CAIA charterholder.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame; MBA from Carnegie Mellon University

Location

Table #58



ANGEL IDOWU '12

Arts Correspondent at WTTW

Angel Idowu is currently the JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation Arts Correspondent for Chicago's PBS station, Chicago Tonight.

Prior, she served as a reporter and producer for CBS affiliate WJTV12 in Jackson, MS.

Angel received her Master's of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. This opportunity allowed her to work as an on-air reporter in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and South Africa. It was while working for the Pretoria News in South Africa that Angel was one of two American journalist that reported on the historic ruling on the death of anti-apartheid activist, Ahmed Timol.

As a current reporter and producer, Angel believes juggling both positions on a daily basis has not only allowed her to strengthen her sense of news judgement, but is also reflective of her ability to work well under pressure amongst a team. Maintaining both roles has allowed Angel to best understand what is required to execute a captivating and interactive newscast.

ARTS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Government from Beloit College; Master's Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Northwestern University

Location

Table #1

LEGAL

Education

Juris Doctorate Degree from DePaul University School of Law

Location

Table #10



SERVICE INDUSTRY

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Roosevelt University; MBA from Roosevelt University

Location

Table #23

KATE KELLY '86

Assistant United States Attorney, Northern District of Illinois

Ms. Kelly is an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. Kate graduated from DePaul University College of Law in 1993, where she served as Symposium Editor of the DePaul Law Review and was a member of the National Trial Team. She then clerked for two years for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Kate has published two lead law review articles focusing on the First Amendment. Kate joined the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's office in 1995. Her practice as an AUSA includes the defense of Title VII and tort actions, and affirmative civil fraud litigation. She has tried many cases to verdict, both jury and bench trials. As a collateral duty, Kate serves as a mediator of employment discrimination pre-complaints across the country. She has performed in the CBA Bar Show production for 30 yrs. Kate has been teaching Law and Public Policy at DePaul University's School of Public Service for over 20 years.

McAuley Impact

"McAuley provided me the building blocks upon which I built my legal career. From the classroom to the choral rooms and stage in D-wing, I began the route to law school and trial work. Additionally, McAuley gave us confidence and taught us that we could do anything. The writing skills honed at McAuley were invaluable."

CARLITA KELLY-BROWN '12

Marketing Director at City Cruises

Carlita Kelly-Brown is a dedicated marketing professional in the hospitality and travel industry, currently serving as the Marketing Director at City Cruises. With an eye for creative vision and a strategic mindset, she plays a key role in driving brand success for this national brand. Carlita is a proud alumna of Mother McAuley's class of 2012, where she first honed the principles that have been instrumental in shaping her career. Carlita's career trajectory initially ventured into the realms of social media and influencer marketing within the fashion and beauty industry before finding her niche in the hospitality sector at City Cruises in 2019. Here, she supports national marketing campaigns and orchestrates exciting local initiatives including TV segments, influencer collaborations, and sponsorship of the first-ever Chicago White Sox Yacht Rock Night. Carlita's career journey reflects not only her marketing expertise but also the values instilled during her formative years at Mother McAuley. She champions the power of networks and the pivotal role of women in supporting each other on their professional journeys. Reconnecting with old classmates and friends from McAuley, Carlita has witnessed them pursue diverse and successful careers in fields such as TV, photography, design, and more. Over the years, their collaborative efforts have supported and enriched each other's professional paths, showcasing the enduring bonds and spirit of cooperation fostered by the McAuley education.



KELLY KOLTON '01

Senior Marketing Manager at Stout

Kelly Kolton is a marketing professional with over 17 years of experience in various industries including finance, higher education, legal, and not-for-profits. She is currently Senior Marketing Manager at Stout, a global financial advisory firm headquartered in Chicago. At Stout, she is responsible for the planning, development, and execution of marketing initiatives. She uses her skills in communications, team management, graphic design, and event planning. In addition, she serves as a leader for Stout's Women's Resource Group and volunteers for community and alumni organizations.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Visual Art/Graphic Design from Bradley University; MBA in Marketing from Lewis University

Study Abroad

Fulbright-funded trip to Slovenia to study communications, journalism, and advertising; cultural and language course in Slovenia

Location

Table #63

McAuley Impact

"I took many classes in web and graphic design. My teacher, Mrs. Laird-Sorkis knew how much I enjoyed and was good at design, and asked me if that is what I wanted to study in college. I was amazed and was like "I could study this in college?!" Thanks to her, I explored graphic design and multimedia/communications during my time as an undergraduate student. The skills that I practiced in McAuley art classes are still valuable to me today, as I do graphic design or work with designers in my full-time position working in marketing. The big lesson is to see what you are good at and enjoy doing, and see if that can translate into something to pursue as an area of study or as part of your career. Try out lots of classes and clubs in high school, meet people working in different types of fields, so that you are exploring and finding out what you like before you get to college. I was lucky to have the experience in my classes and had a headstart using Photoshop and other design programs."



JENNY GILLESPIE KRIBS '96

Operations Manager for Delaware North-Sportservice at Guaranteed Rate Field

Jenny Kribs is the Operations Manager for Delaware North-Sportservice at Guaranteed Rate Field. For 13 seasons she has ensured that Chicago White Sox fans have the best food and beverage in the major leagues. She is focused on creating memorable experiences for the guests while reimagining tomorrow. 15 years ago, she started with Sportservice, one of the largest privately-owned hospitality and entertainment companies in the world, supervising events at Soldier Field. From Chicago Bears games to plated dinners for 500, Jenny worked behind the scenes and on the front lines, making each guest experience the best it could be. Over the last decade Jenny has travelled and supported the openings of Camelback Ranch, Target Field and Truist Park as well as all-star games and World Series. When not at the ballpark she enjoys watching her 2 boys play ball and golfing with her husband! Jenny is also the Athletic Board President at Sutherland Elementary and organizes a youth soccer league.

SERVICE INDUSTRY

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Communication from Fort Lewis College

Location

Table #22



JEAN LACHAT '85

Owner of Jean Lachat Photography

A 1985 graduate of Mother McAuley, where her photography career actually began as a photographer and photo editor for *Inscape*. Jean studied journalism at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and received her Masters Degree in Journalism from Roosevelt University in Chicago. She spent 23 years as a staff photojournalist in Chicago for the Daily Southtown and Chicago Sun-Times newspapers. She launched her portrait business, Jean Lachat Photography in 2008, and it is now a thriving full-time business, based in Mokena. Jean continues to tell stories with her camera, photographing high school seniors, families, and children.

ARTS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Master's Degree in Journalism from Roosevelt University

Location

Table #4

McAuley Impact

"As I mentioned, my photography career started at McAuley, when my English teacher, Mrs. Vandenbosch saw me sharing photos from a ski club trip and asked if I was interested in taking photos for *Inscape*. Ms. Tyska was my first mentor and teacher, and patiently taught me how to use a darkroom. It started me on my career path because I only fell more in love with photography, and it has been my life's work. I am forever thankful for that."



SANDRA KENDRICK LEE '66

Drug Safety Scientist Novavax

In the 46 years since receiving her PhD, she has had 4 careers, each one building on the previous one. Her first career was as a research scientist for 6 years at Harvard Medical School and the National Institutes of Health where she designed and conducted her experiments on bone and cartilage biochemistry. Her second career, was as a faculty member and department chair for 15 years. She taught biochemistry, in addition to doing research. Her third career was as a senior university administrator for 12 years. Her fourth and current career is as a drug safety scientist in the pharmaceutical industry for the last 12 years. Currently she works on COVID-19 vaccine safety at Novavax.

McAuley Impact

"Three McAuley teachers were my inspiration. My French language teacher, Mademoiselle Gibbons, encouraged us to be adventurous in our lives. My drama teacher, Mrs. Riordon, encouraged us to be courageous and get out on the stage. My senior homeroom teacher, Sister Mary Placide, encouraged me to try very hard to find a way to pay for college."

HEALTHCARE/S.T.E.M.

Education

PhD in Biochemistry from Northwestern University; MEd in Higher Education from Loyola University Chicago

Location

Table #27



EDUCATION

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from Western Illinois University; Master's Degree in Special Education from Dominican University

Location

Table #18

S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Minor in Business Administration and Marketing from Northern Illinois University

Study Abroad

Sweden and Denmark

Location

Table #30



MARIA RAMIREZ LOSSELYOUNG '97

Staff Manager at West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA)

Maria has taught in both public and private schools in Illinois as an elementary, middle school and special education high school teacher for 20 years. Most recently from 2011-2021, she was a Learning Resource Teacher at McAuley. Now, she is a Staff Manager at a WSSRA; which provides year-round quality recreation services for children and adults with disabilities. WSSRA focuses on age-appropriate recreation opportunities designed to meet individual needs. Maria recruits, hires, and trains staff to work as Recreation Leaders and Inclusion Aides to support the participants in their seasonal programs.

McAuley Impact

"It is not just one story or one particular class, but the 4-year experience attending a single gender high school where I was able to grow academically and find who I wanted to be and do in this world. However, being in orchestra with Sr. Ellen Marie was a highlight of my time at McAuley. She showed us discipline, dedication and determination everyday as we practiced as a whole group. Now, I value these when I work with students and my co-workers."

MARIA MASCOTE

Community Development Coordinator at Power Construction

After finishing her undergraduate degree in business at Northern Illinois University, she joined Power Construction's Community Development department at the beginning of 2023. Through her time at Power, she has worked with a substantial network of community stakeholders to develop and implement a myriad of initiatives aimed at creating more economic opportunities in the construction industry for communities across the Chicagoland area. Specifically, she oversees Power's Scholarship Program which awards renewable scholarships to students pursuing 4-year degrees in Construction, Engineering or Architecture and Power's overall high school engagement efforts. Additionally, she works closely with pre-apprentice organizations to champion individuals looking to start a new career in union construction and contractor associations to aid businesses looking for their next bid opportunity.

NORA MCCUAN '16

Tax Supervisor at Topel Forman LLC

Nora McCuan graduated from McAuley in 2016. Since graduation, she went off to Moraine Valley and then DePaul University to earn her Bachelor's in Accounting. She currently works for a public accounting firm, Topel Forman LLC. At Topel Forman, she works in the tax department. She primarily works on individual client and partnership tax returns.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from DePaul University

Location

Table #49



McAuley Impact

"I wouldn't have had the courage to pursue accounting if it wasn't for McAuley. McAuley gave me the confidence and courage to lead."

KELLIANNE GRANT MCDONOUGH '03

Meeting Planner at Hummingbird Meetings & Events

Kellianne McDonough grew up on the southside of Chicago, attending both St. Barnabas and Mother McAuley. She went on to graduate from the University of Illinois in Recreation, Sport and Tourism Management. After college, Kellianne worked as a meeting planner in Chicago for associations and pharmaceutical companies. After moving back to Beverly in 2015, she took a break for corporate life to raise her 3 kids (now 4, 6, and 8). In 2021, Kellianne re-joined the workforce with Hummingbird Meetings & Events planning corporate meetings. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, teaching fitness class, reading and playing tennis.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Recreation, Sport and Tourism Management from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Location

Table #48



JOANNE ROSE MCELDOWNEY '74

Registered Nurse at Stroger Hospital

Initially, over the first 20 years, Joanne's career took her into the field of Pediatric Nursing in a variety of settings. The last 20 years were spent with Nursing Professional Development mainly at the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago.

McAuley Impact

"There is no question my education and guidance at McAuley nurtured my interest in science and biology leading me into the field of nursing. In addition, the leadership and staff at McAuley set the foundation for my self esteem, graduating with the confidence that I could accomplish anything I set my mind to!"

HEALTHCARE

Education

Associate's Degree in Nursing from Moraine Valley; Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Purdue University

Location

Table #40



TRACY VIZZA MCELLIGOTT '91

Senior National Account Manager at Ferrero USA

Currently, she is the Senior National Account Manager for everyday confections on the Dollar General account. Dollar General is Ferrero's 6th largest customer in the USA and she manages their largest business on that account, everyday confections. She will soon be moving to another account, Kroger, calling on them for cookies. This is the largest portfolio in the grocery team and the 3rd largest customer at Ferrero USA.

Before taking on a sales role, her 20+ year background in the Consumer Packages Goods industry included many years of Category Management, which built her skill set in data analytics, insights, and space management. She spent some time in Shopper Marketing as well, which created in-store and digital marketing programs for retailers like Dollar General, CVS, and Walgreens. She has worked for a marketing research company, as well as a grocery retailer, in the Chicago market.

McAuley Impact

"I believe Mother McAuley empowers young women to become the future leaders in our world. It helped me see that my strengths should not be hidden but displayed and leveraged in life. Although I don't have a specific example from McAuley, the skill set I gained in high school helped me in college, especially when I was the philanthropy chairperson of my social sorority."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor of Science in Consumer Economics from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; MBA in Marketing from DePaul University

Location

Table #53



EMILY MORAN '12

Musician at Fuzzy Kid

Emily Moran is a recording artist, songwriter, and music producer living in Michigan. After graduating from Mother McAuley in 2012, Emily attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. In the school's intensive Contemporary Writing & Production program, Emily trained in composition, arranging, orchestration, and audio production, along with self-directed study in songwriting, performance, and American folk music. Upon graduating from Berklee in 2016, Emily went on to record a full-length album of her original music, under the name Aurora Birch, and tour extensively in the Northeast, the Midwest, and Alaska. Presently, she creates and teaches music on her farm in Southwest Michigan. In addition to her music career, Emily is the Co-Director of the New Rising Sun Center, a community center for ecological & cultural regeneration located on her family's farm. She is also a self-taught goat herder, and works with her herd of 13 mystical goats to clear & heal land.

McAuley Impact

"My time at McAuley was an important step on my spiritual journey and allowed me the opportunity to cultivate my unique & individual relationship with Spirit/God. This connection has served me every step of the way as I move towards my ultimate purpose here on Earth."

ARTS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Contemporary Writing & Production from Berklee College of Music

Location

Table #2



CLARE NAWROCKI '12

Financial Consultant at Equitable

Clare has been a Financial Advisor with Equitable for seven years. Clare is part of a specialized group that focuses on retirement plans for non-profit and municipal organizations. Clare meets with individuals and develops tailored retirement plans and risk management solutions.

McAuley Impact

"McAuley instilled in me the power of speaking up and asking questions. McAuley gave me the confidence to stand up for myself and others, especially when it is not easy or convenient."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Finance from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Study Abroad

Southern France

Location

Table #60



SHEA NEEDHAM '16

Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator Lake County State's Attorney Office

Shea Needham is the Coordinator and Victim Specialist for the Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force; an Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM), Multi-Dispensary Team that uses a victim centered, trauma informed approach to counter human trafficking. Shea has been advocating for victims of abuse and human trafficking since 2017, providing comprehensive support & care to survivors, training community partners and consulting for governmental & social service agencies. As the Victim Specialist, Shea uses a holistic approach to guide victims through the prosecutorial process, ensuring the victim knows their rights, understand the process that is taking place, has emotional support, care & needed services, and is prepped and able to testify if needed. Shea currently sits on the Illinois Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, Joint (IL) Statewide Human & Labor Trafficking Working Group and a past member of the Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force.

McAuley Impact

"My education and time at Mother McAuley gave me the overall strength and courage needed to be in the field of work I am in today because it is where my sense of Empathy was first nurtured. There isn't a day I am not thankful for the confidence and dedication that was instilled into me whether it by my peers or teachers. I know my time at Mother McAuley was making me who I was meant to be, guiding me to use Empathy, even if I didn't know it at the time."

LEGAL

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from
Bradley University, Double Minor in
Political Science and Sociology

Study Abroad

London, England

Location

Table #8

LAW ENFORCEMENT/FIRST RESPONSE

Education

Master's Degree in Threat and Response Management from University of Chicago

Location

Table #7



BUSINESS

Education

Juris Doctorate Degree from University of Illinois College of Law

Location

Table #57

KATIE NORTON '08

Emergency Management Specialist at UIC

Katie Norton is an Emergency Management Specialist at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Katie started her career within the theater industry as an Operation Manager. During her time in the theater industry, she noticed a gap between where the stage ends and where reality begins. She then began building theater emergency plans, training staff on emergency protocols, and assisting in the creation of safety policies. This sparked a new passion and a new career. After making the switch, Katie has worked with organizations assisting with COVID response efforts, developed and facilitated emergency exercises at the local, state, and federal level, and responded to major incidents. Although Katie will always have a passion for the arts, she believes without the foundation of safety preparedness and resilience we run the risk of losing the opportunity for art to flourish.

McAuley Impact

"When I was a student at McAuley, I felt limitless. Never did I feel like I couldn't do something because of who I was or the obstacles I was faced with. I was empowered by many of my instructors, my classmates, and the lifelong friends I made. Often I wonder, would I have taken the leap to find my true passion and be in the career I am today, if I had not had that sense of courage and empowerment imbedded into me at such a crucial time in my life?"

KATE O'MALLEY '82

Founder and CEO of K.O. Strategies

Kate O'Malley is Founder & CEO of K.O. Strategies, a nationally award-winning firm that provides strategic consulting services. In short, we help clients tell their stories and achieve their goals. Our services include strategic communications, stakeholder relations, strategic planning, public relations, marketing, public affairs, and advocacy. Kate has 30+ years' experience consulting with global corporations, institutes of higher education, nonprofits, and government. She served as policy advisor and speechwriter for a U.S. Senator in Washington, DC. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame, received her law degree from the University of Illinois, and attended Harvard during her third year of law school.

McAuley Impact

"McAuley helped me realize I can do anything I set my mind to. I can compete with the best. I may not achieve my goal every time, but there are life lessons in setbacks as well."



KATE O'NEILL '96

Fractional Chief Financial and People Officer at SilkRoad Technology

Kate started her career at Deloitte (a large global accounting firm) in Chicago. After four years, she moved to London and spent nine years living and working in London. After Deloitte, she has held several finance leadership roles in technology companies. Working in Finance allows her to not only understand the numbers but also understand various aspects of business and how each part of the business contributes to the numbers and success of the business.

McAuley Impact

"At McAuley, I learned to expand my horizons and lean into my strengths as I began to plan for my adult life. McAuley taught me to speak up and follow my own path. As a result, I had the courage to study abroad in college, which was an experience that helped define my career path and changed my life in many ways."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign;
Master of Business Administration from University of Chicago (London campus)

Study Abroad

Melbourne, Australia

Location

Table #61



MAGGIE O'REILLY '98

President/ Owner of Hummingbird Meetings & Events

Maggie is a Corporate Meeting & Convention planner with 15+ years experience managing all aspects of corporate & client events. Passionate, driven and detail-oriented individual with working knowledge of Pharmaceutical Sunshine Act and Reporting. She has extensive international experience throughout Europe and LATAM as well as hosting international clients and customers domestically in the United States. She has a demonstrated history of executing budgets between \$200,000 - \$3.2 million while maximizing business value and ROI. A strong focus on high-touch experiences both virtually, hybrid and in person that promote company investment, loyalty and increased sales growth.

Study Abroad

Mexico

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Food Science Human Nutrition and Spanish from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Location

Table #48



ROBBIE KUCHLER O'SHEA '81

Physical Therapist at Governors State University

After 37 years as a pediatric physical therapist and 30 years as a college professor, Dr. O'Shea retired. She is currently a professor Emeritus at GSU and works part time as a pediatric PT. She also writes textbooks and continues to help with research programs driven by students but inspired by clinicians.

McAuley Impact

"McAuley prepared me to be anything I wanted to be and to never give up on challenges. To expect to work hard and play hard. McAuley also taught me the valuable lessons of grace and humility, no matter how book smart you are, without grace and humility you are just booksmart."

HEALTHCARE

Education

Doctorate in Education/Special Education from UIC; Master's Degree from DePaul University; Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Governors State University

Location

Table #39



JESSICA PEDROZA '15

Marketing Project Manager at Lyric Opera of Chicago

After graduating from Mother McAuley High School in 2015, Jessica attended Loyola University Chicago where she received her BBA in Supply Chain Management in 2019 as apart of the Quinlan Business Honors Program. Wanting to delve further into her discipline, Jessica moved to Washington, D.C. where she completed her Masters in Project Management from Georgetown University and worked with the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Artistic Operations. Jessica relocated back to Chicago and has been working on the Marketing & Communications team for the Lyric Opera of Chicago since March of 2021. As a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute (PMI), Jessica has been asked to consult on company and industry wide topics in her field. She looks forward to continuing to grow in her expertise and seeing where her path may lead.

McAuley Impact

"I have been very blessed and grateful to have had women throughout my career assist in my educational and professional growth. A few of the many gifts and lessons instilled in me from my time at McAuley were to listen to, collaborate with, and the confidence to speak up for myself and those around me on how we can help lift each other up and provide the resources we need to excel and feel supported. In my work environment, I strive to create a space where everyone feels welcome, heard and can advocate for themselves and others. In the true spirit of Catherine McAuley, I even have a teapot, mugs and tea at my desk which I have been told makes folks feel at home. In moments of high stress I like to be the person that makes sure everyone feels connected to the rest of the team and we all have what we need to accomplish our tasks. The best way I have found to do that is to continue to listen and be a model of collaboration the way we were expected to during my time at McAuley. Go Macs!"

NON-PROFIT

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Supply Chain Management; Master's Degree in Project Management from Georgetown University; Certificate in Agile and Lean Practices from Georgetown University

Study Abroad

John Felice Rome Center (JFRC)

Location

Table #56

EDUCATION

Education

Bachelor's Degree from Saint Xavier University; Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from National-Louis University

Location

Table #16



JOAN CURTIN PRENDERGAST '64

Substitute Teacher Retired from District 122

Teaching has always been a passion for Joan! Over her career, she has taught in both public and Catholic schools. She retired from Ridgeland School District 122. After retiring, she started substituting in both Oak Lawn school districts. Joan finds it to be a very enjoyable and rewarding part time job.

McAuley Impact

"Being a McAuley graduate has enabled me to make instant connections with teachers in our Oak Lawn schools who have also graduated from McAuley."

BETSY ROSS READY '94

Head of Client Business at OKRP

Betsy is an inventive collaborator, highly skilled in fostering world-class brand communication efforts. She believes in powerful bold ideas, rooted in today's cultural backdrop, that can help elevate a brand from a mere product or service to an invaluable role in consumers lives. As a leader and mentor of multiple cross-functional, integrated team members, Betsy is fueled and inspired by the simple fact that no two days are ever the same and she can't wait to jump in and see how she can shape it for the better.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Advertising/Marketing from Marquette University

Location

Table #5



PATTI REILLY '85

Business Manager at William Blair

After college, Patti began her career at an investment firm, William Blair. Patti has worked at William Blair for over 34 years, and she is so grateful to still be a part of this company. She has experience in operations, fixed income and private wealth management. She is currently a business manager with an investment advisory team, where they do planning and portfolio management. They help clients navigate through different life events and help them reach their financial goals.

McAuley Impact

"My McAuley education prepared me so well for career. I feel having a strong education gave me the confidence to believe in myself. I think the important thing to understand about having a career path, is that it can change over time. You always have to have an open mind to see the possibilities out there and seize opportunities. Sometimes change can be scary, but having the skills to learn and adapt to a changing environment brings success."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Education from Illinois State University

Location

Table #59



JEAN VOGT RYAN '85

Head of Global Leadership Development at PepsiCo

Jean is responsible for leadership development at PepsiCo, which includes designing, developing and delivering learning programs for every level of leader in the organization, from first time managers to executives. She spent the first half of her career in various sales positions and then made a switch into HR and has been in various learning / organization development roles ever since.

McAuley Impact

"More than anything, McAuley provided me a chance to learn and grow - both academically and as a person. The network at McAuley can help to open opportunities and provides a foundation of friendships that last forever."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Illinois State University; Master's in Learning & Organizational Change from Northwestern University

Location

Table #50



COLLEEN GEORGHEGAN SCALISE '97

Senior Administrative Director at City Cruises

Colleen Geoghegan Scalise is a highly accomplished professional in the field of business management and administration. Her career began at the reception desk of Mercy Hall, where she discovered her true calling in administration during her educational journey at Mother McAuley, culminating in her graduation in 1997. She continued her academic pursuits at Saint Xavier University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2002. Committed to her personal and professional growth, Colleen furthered her education by obtaining a Master of Arts degree from DePaul University in 2007.

SERVICE INDUSTRY

Education

Bachelor's Degree in English from Saint Xavier University; Master's Degree in English from DePaul University

Location

Table #23

Colleen's career has primarily unfolded at City Cruises, where she started as an office manager when the company operated boats in prominent cities such as Chicago, New York, Boston, and Washington, DC. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and dedication to her craft have propelled her to her current position as the Senior Administrative Director. Throughout her journey, Colleen has played an integral role in the company's expansion, leading a national team that spans city ports in the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and the east and west coasts of the United States. Colleen's remarkable 20-year tenure with the company, celebrating a milestone anniversary in January 2024, is a testament to her enduring passion for management and administration. Colleen's professional journey serves as a shining example of dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, values that she honed during her formative years at Mother McAuley. She continues to inspire and lead in the field of business management and administration.



ARTS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy from the University of Notre Dame; Master's Business Administration from Northwestern University

Location

Table #21

CHRISTIE GALLAGHER SEVER '72

Author; Owner of Children of the World Books

Christie Sever lives with her husband in a leafy green suburb of Chicago. She worked for many years as a CPA. Christie is the author of the "Children of the World Books" series, targeted towards middle-school age children. As she travels around the world, she meets many children in their homelands. They have inspired her to write this book series. "Children of the World Books" highlight the culture and history of many different countries in the world.

McAuley Impact

"After graduating from all female Mother McAuley, I attended a what was a previously all-male college. My freshman year, the University of Notre Dame admitted women for the first time, and I was part of the 150 women who began that year. After my education, I worked in the Finance Department of a steel company, again, predominantly male. I could never have communicated so effectively, worked so efficiently, or been as confident as I was in these mostly male environments, had I not gained communication, work and leadership skills from McAuley."



BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Business from Saint Xavier University; Master of Business Administration from Saint Xavier University; Doctor of Business Administration from Argosy University

Location

Table #54

LAURA SHALLOW '75

Executive Vice President at World Data Systems

Currently an Executive Vice President of a financial services firm; marketing, management, and sales consultant; adjunct college undergraduate and graduate professor with specialization in business; former senior level banker at community and a large regional bank; doctoral degree in business management, graduate degrees in management and finance, undergraduate degree in marketing; member of many civic, community, professional, and service organizations.

McAuley Impact

"My McAuley education has empowered me to strive to my highest levels of performance in my career, education, and life. My experiences helped me reach success in the fields of banking, financial services, and education, and to move to higher levels of management in areas that were previously held by more men than women. My education taught me to focus and plan for a successful future, and to never give up."



BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Marketing from Saint Xavier University; Master of Business Administration from Governors State University

Location

Table #55

NOREEN SMITH

Director of Human Resources at Preferred Risk Insurance Services

Noreen is the Human Resources Director for Preferred Risk Insurance Services and has worked with the organization for a total of 16 years. Noreen possesses over 20 years of experience in Human Resources, primarily within the insurance industry and has previous experience in retail, manufacturing and medical industries. Noreen earned an MBA from Governors State University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Marketing from Saint Xavier. She is a SHRM (Society For Human Resource Management) Certified Professional and earned the PHR (Professional In Human Resources) credential from HRCI (HR Certification Institute). She has extensive experience in Talent Acquisition, Performance Management, Employee Relations, Benefits and Training & Development. She believes that learning is a lifelong journey and looks forward to sharing her knowledge and guidance with aspiring Human Resources and Business professionals.

McAuley Impact

"Although I am not a graduate of Mother McAuley, we chose to send our daughters to Mother McAuley because we believe in the Mercy mission."



ARTS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Communications from University of Missouri

Location

Table #3

KAREN SPEARS '13

Business Owner & Creative Director of Kareracter LLC

Karen Spears founded Kareracter, a creative firm specializing in hand-lettering projects and graphic design. With a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and a minor in Business from the University of Missouri, Karen has a unique perspective on brand design that works hand-in-hand with business. Early in her career, Karen had the privilege of working for Google & Leo Burnett and served as a programming advisor for the Obama Foundation. In 2018, she was named Emerging Designer by the Professional Association of Design in Chicago, IL. She was recognized by Soho House as one of Chicago's Rising Stars in 2021 and, more recently, has been featured on WGN, WGN Radio, NBC, Fox, and WTTW.

McAuley Impact

"In my senior year, a Mother McAuley student Leah Rothle was my first patron, who commissioned me to create her favorite Dr. Seuss quote which inspired me to start my first creative business. That moment gave me the confidence to pursue a full-time career in creative entrepreneurship. This moment speaks to the culture of women empowerment that McAuley instilled in us all."



TIANDREA TERRY '09

Regional Sales Manager at Lakeshore Learning Materials

Regional Sales Manager for Lakeshore Learning Materials. Servicing young learners from birth through middle school as well as high school. Providing high quality environments as well as hands on resources and more to communities across South Cook County.

TiAndrea is an experienced account manager with a demonstrated history of relationship management. She is skilled in Sales, Revenue & Profit Growth, Customer Relationship Management(CRM) as well as Business Management.

McAuley Impact

"My time spent at McAuley was so pivotal in my growth as a woman as well as a professional. The advantage of a single gender education allowed me to learn my strengths early and show up strong with in my gifts. My favorite classes were Theology and English. These classes inspired me to use my voice, my talents of writing, and public speaking in my everyday life. I take the teachings of the Sisters of Mercy along my journey daily and extend grace to all that cross my path."

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Eastern Illinois University

Location

Table #17

NON-PROFIT

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Illinois State University; Master's Degree in Non-Profit Administration from DePaul University

Location

Table #34

PAT NORRIS THIES '75

Executive Director at Blue Cap

Pat has worked with adults with Intellectual Disabilities since graduating from Illinois State University with a Bachelors in Social Work. She completed a Masters program at DePaul University in Non-profit Administration in 1982. She has worked for Seguin Services, Ray Graham Association and Blue Cap as Residential Director, Quality Assurance Director, Adult Day Services Director, Human Resource Director, and currently as the Executive Director, where I will finish my career. She is married with 2 grown daughters who also graduated from McAuley and has 2 grandsons.

McAuley Impact

"I had a class called the City in my Junior year. We learned about the social, economic, and political structure of Chicagoland. Great information. But, we also had instruction on public speaking. I still use what I learned in that class today."

BRIGID TOUHY '14

Senior Tax Associate at Topel Forman LLC

Brigid joined Topel Forman directly out of graduate school and has been with TF since 2019. She currently serves as a Senior Tax Associate specializing in professional service tax returns. The ever-changing landscape of the tax world and technological advances keep the day-to-day of her role interesting, while still providing a stable and reliable work environment that has allowed her to thrive.



BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy from DePaul University; Master's Degree in Accounting Science from Northern Illinois University

Study Abroad

Bangkok, Thailand; Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Location

Table #49



BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Management from Eastern Illinois University; Master's Degree in Accounting and Financial Management from Keller Graduate School of Management

Location

Table #61



McAuley Impact

"Being in a predominately male dominated field, my McAuley education proved invaluable almost immediately. I had many peers who were afraid to speak up during meetings or voice opinions and because I was not, I became a trusted advisor to managers and partners who regularly sought out staff thoughts and opinions."

FELICIA UPSHAW

Global Accounting Manager at SilkRoad Technology Inc.

Felicia has been working in the Finance/Accounting sector for over 20 years. Her accounting career began at Live Nation (formerly Clear Channel Entertainment). She started as an Accounts Payable Specialist processing invoices and making payments for the company. A few years later, she was promoted to Staff Accountant where her duties became more involved. After developing a passion for numbers and wanting to learn more about the craft, she returned to school and earned her Masters in Accounting and Financial Management. Soon after, she was promoted to Senior Accountant with a staff of 3 reporting directly to her. After 12 years at Live Nation, her career path led her to SilkRoad Technology Inc where she is currently employed as the Global Accounting Manager.

McAuley Impact

"I'm not a McAuley alumna. However, I think high school is where ladies really begin to mature and fall into their own path. From speaking with multiple friends that have attended Mother McAuley, I know its a great place for the teen to adult transformation."

MOLLY BRIDGMAN VANDEVELD '84

Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch

Molly began her career in the financial services industry in 1988, and served in a variety of roles until she became a Financial Advisor to Wealth Management clients in 1995. Molly graduated from Vanderbilt University, cum laude, with majors in Mathematics and Economics, and holds an MBA with a concentration in finance from the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business. Molly resides on the South Side of Chicago where she is active in her community and several non-profit organizations.

BUSINESS

Education

Bachelor's Degree from Vanderbilt University; Masters of Business Administration from University of Chicago

Location

Table #52

HEALTHCARE

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Health and Sport Studies; Doctor of Physical Therapy from Northwestern University

Location

Table #28



S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Construction Engineering & Management from Purdue University; Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University

Location

Table #32

McAuley Impact

My McAuley experience made me truly love learning and understand the power of a strong team that supports and encourages you - especially in times of stress. Without this experience I would never have thought we could build an all women advisory team in a field that still is dominated by men.

MARGUERITE CLEMENT VILLARREAL '01

Pediatric Physical Therapist at Advocate Children's Hospital

Maggie is a Pediatric Physical Therapist and Mother McAuley graduate, class of 2001. She began her career at Advocate Children's Hospital in 2009, and has been there almost 14 years. She specializes in providing acute physical therapy services focused on development and motor function to patients ranging from premature infants to young adults. Her practice is hospital based, primarily in general acute care and intensive care units. She sees a wide variety of diagnoses ranging from neurologic, orthopedic, genetic, cardiac, oncology, pulmonary, trauma, infectious disease, etc. She loves this career because it is patient centered, care driven, and fast paced.

McAuley Impact

"My time at Mother McAuley empowers me daily. It was foundational in my commitment to serving others and my dedication to seek a career where I could make a difference. In a fast paced healthcare setting, my McAuley experience has given me the confidence and strength needed to achieve my personal career goals, collaborate effectively and provide compassionate top quality care."

ANNE BIGANE WILSON '76

President of Bigane Paving Co

Anne Bigane Wilson is president of both Bigane Paving Co, a fourth generation family firm specializing in asphalt paving and Ogden Avenue Materials which is an asphalt producer serving the Chicago area. She is the immediate past president of the Illinois Asphalt Pavement Assn. She has also served on the board of several area trade associations at both the local and national level. She most recently completed her term as a member of the Purdue Construction Engineering & Mgmt Advisory Council. Anne has been recognized by the American Subcontractors Assn with their Best Practices Award.

McAuley Impact

"My father passed away suddenly two years after I joined our family firm. I was chief estimator on Friday and President on Monday. While I didn't always know what to do next, my McAuley education gave me the courage to keep moving forward. I knew I could find the resources I needed, whether that was a mentor, additional education through various trade associations, or just the support of a wonderful family."



VANIA MONTERO WIT '86

Vice President & Deputy General Counsel at United Airlines

Vania leads a team of attorneys responsible for managing litigation and legal compliance globally in the areas of intellectual property, antitrust, commercial, employment, labor and benefits. She is also responsible for the company's international legal portfolio. She provides counsel and direction to leaders at all levels, including the C-Suite and is responsible for the Legal Department's operations and legal strategy. She is executive sponsor of uImpact – United's business resource group advocating for women in the workplace. Vania also serves as Mother McAuley's Board Chair.

S.T.E.M.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Northwestern University; Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, *cum laude*

Location

Table #29



TRICIA O'CONNOR ZUBER '87

Commander, Ret. from the Chicago Police Department

Tricia graduated from Marquette University in May of 1991 and started the Chicago Police Academy in November. She was promoted to Sergeant in 1999, Lieutenant in 2015, and Commander in 2021. She worked in the Patrol Division, the Bureau of Administrative Services, the Detective Division, and Deployment Operations Center.

McAuley Impact

"My McAuley education as well as my McAuley experiences gave me the confidences necessary to perform the duties of a police officer and the ability to be successfully promoted."

LAW ENFORCEMENT/ FIRST RESPONSE

Education

MPA from IIT

Study Abroad

Galway, Ireland

Location

Table #6

