



## Annual Letter 2015

### Alumni Weekend 2015 in Review

*Chandini Bachman (AZ 1970), USSYAA Board Member*

Alumni from the entire span of USSYP history attended the USSYAA Annual Awards Dinner Friday, March 6th, together with their guests. The dinner is a grand occasion for alumni to get together with old friends and make new ones, too. In addition to strengthening the community of alumni connections, the dinner is when we present an award or two, depending on the year.

The Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes individuals who have made a positive, substantive impact on public discourse in the United States. The recipient in 2015 was former Indiana Senator Richard Lugar whose impact on public discourse has been global. To learn more about his contributions to our world, you can read *Richard G. Lugar, Statesman of the Senate: Crafting Foreign Policy from Capitol Hill*, by John T. Shaw, Indiana University Press, 2012.

The James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award is named for the last Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives and USSYAA's first Executive Director, who provided important guidance and support to our organization in its formative years. Jim passed away in 2011, and through this award USSYAA strives to recognize the best examples of service to the association and the U.S. Senate Youth Program. The recipient in 2015 was Mayor Pete Buttigieg of the City of South Bend, Indiana. An Indiana delegate to the Senate Youth Program in 2000, as well as a Rhodes Scholar, Buttigieg studied philosophy, politics, and economics at Oxford and holds a bachelor's degree in history and literature from Harvard.

Elected at the age of 29, he is America's youngest mayor of a city with over 100,000 residents. In 2013, he was called "the most interesting mayor you've never heard of" by the Washington Post. It was Mayor Pete's birthday and both his parents came to Washington with him to celebrate his receiving the Award.

Much more about the 2015 Award recipients can be learned by reading our alumni website.

Please join our multi-generational community of alumni for an evening of friendship and high aspirations at Washington Weekend.

### Alumni Events in San Francisco

*Elaine Sedenberg (TX 2006), USSYAA Board Member*

On January 22, 2015 Bay Area alumni gathered at the San Francisco Press Club to meet and mingle over refreshments. The event was a huge success with around 30 alumni representing years starting from the mid-1990s to as recent as 2014! USSYP photographer, Jakub Mosur, was also able to drop by to say hi and reconnect with recent participants. If you aren't already on the email list, please contact Elaine at [western\\_director@ussyaa.org](mailto:western_director@ussyaa.org) and join our Facebook group "USSYAA in the Bay Area" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/USSYAABayArea/>). We hope to organize more events in the Bay Area this new year, and if you are located in other western cities and are interested in helping with an event please reach out to us!

### Help Our Scholarships

*James Brown (CO 2008), USSYAA Communications Director*

The Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst Sr Alumni Scholarship offers \$5,000 to graduate studies for our incredibly talented and ambitious alumni. The majority of this funding comes from wise investment of our endowment and alumni donations. The scholarship committee has been discussing expanding the scholarship program to offer more awards. We can't do this without your help. If you'd like to donate, please visit [ussyaa.org](http://ussyaa.org) and fill out our easy donation

form. With your support, we can fund post-graduate studies of more people like Elaine Sedenberg and Katherine Davis. Read more about these talented scholars below.

## **A Note from USSYAA's 2014 Scholarship Recipient**

*Katherine Davis (FL 2006)*

In the year that I received the Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst Sr Alumni Scholarship, I spent three months assisting prosecutors at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, The Netherlands. As ICTY internships are unpaid, the scholarship was a welcome assistance.

The United Nations Security Council established the ICTY to prosecute genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed during the Balkan conflicts in Crimea and Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1991 to 2001. The court began in 1993 and most cases are complete, though a few continue today.

The ICTY was the first international war crimes tribunal since World War II's Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals. Given its unique place in history, the ICTY set groundbreaking precedents in international criminal law. In a nod to the value of America's adversarial judicial system, many ICTY trial teams were led by alumni of the U.S. Department of Justice.

While the atrocities cannot be undone, the ICTY endeavors to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes and to vindicate victims by proving that the crimes occurred. Those tasks are mammoth. For example, the trial of Radovan Karadžić, a founding member of the Serbian Democratic Party, lasted from October 2009 through October 2014. The prosecution presented 336 witnesses and the defense presented 243 witnesses. After the trial, Karadžić filed ten unsuccessful motions to re-open the case. A decision is yet to be issued.

I assisted three trial teams in The Hague. For the prosecution of Ratko Mladić, I researched and wrote strategy regarding "tu quoque" evidence. "Tu quoque," Latin for "you also," is a defense asserting that alleged perpetrators cannot be punished for crimes also committed by their opposition. For the prosecution of Goran Hadžić, I sat with prosecutors during the defendant's direct examination and analyzed his answers for cross-examination strategy. I also profiled evidence for the prosecution's final trial brief against Radovan Karadžić.

My experiences at the ICTY were invaluable. I am grateful that the USSYAA expanded its reach to give this award to a law student for the first time. I hope other law students will benefit from the award in future years.

Katherine Maddox Davis, FL '06, is a law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Beginning this fall, she will clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Katherine is a 2015 graduate of Emory Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of Emory International Law Review. Prior to law school she assisted sex trafficking prosecutors in International Justice Mission's Kolkata, India office. She holds a master's degree in Contemporary India from Oxford University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Auburn University. Outside of court, Katherine writes on comparative international law and serves on International Justice Mission's Alumni Leadership Council.

## **A Note from USSYAA's 2013 Scholarship Recipient**

*Elaine Sedenberg (TX 2006)*

Elaine is in her third year as a doctoral student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Information, where she studies the legal, ethical, and policy aspects of information sharing and data access for research and other public good purposes. Her recent projects include a comparative legal and policy analysis of public health information sharing practices and their applicability to the field of cybersecurity.

Elaine is currently working on instances and potential for open data in the private sector, with a focus specifically on sharing and access practices within cybersecurity. This work on private sector open data also includes analysis on the potential for sharing and ethical use of "biosensed" data collected by wearables, sensors, and the IoT. Another project looks at reclaiming the meaning and use of informed consent in modern data-gathering, digital contexts. On the side, Elaine leads a project at the Berkeley Social Science Matrix making publicly available data about UC Berkeley social scientists accessible via a research network graph.

Outside of work, Elaine enjoys putting her chemistry training to work in the kitchen, hiking with picnics, dabbling in amateur photography, visiting her friends scattered across the country, and letting everyone know she is a proud Texan. She volunteers with the Junior League of San Francisco, and enjoys speaking with young girls and women about careers in science and technology.

Thanks to the scholarship from USSYAA in 2013, Elaine was able to choose research projects based on intellectual interest instead of financial availability. She continues to serve on the USSYAA Board of Directors as the Western Regional Director.

You can follow Elaine's research and writing on her website: <https://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/elaine/>

## **Treasurer's Report**

*John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976), Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair*

On a cash basis for the period of January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, the USSYAA had expenses of \$34,487, consisting of scholarships, the Washington event dinner, regional events and various operating and administrative costs.

The assets of the USSYAA are held at Fidelity Investments and are invested in a portfolio consisting mainly of mutual funds and ETFs. The year-to-date rate of return is 2.96% and includes dividends/interest, realized and unrealized capital gains/losses.

The USSYAA's Finance Committee continues to manage its investments with the goals of supporting the organization's mission. Contributions from members are a critical part of the alumni's goal of increasing scholarships and programs to ensure future success. Our tax returns are available on line at [ussyaa.org/about/taxreturns](http://ussyaa.org/about/taxreturns).

## **Meet the Board**

*James Brown (CO 2008), Communications Director*

The USSYAA Board of Directors meets regularly to plan the Alumni Weekend events, including the awards and scholarship programs, and plan national events. Ideas for how to improve alumni relations and communications are always welcome! We want to make the organization a useful resource for all alumni. Thank you to the members of the board for their commitment to the alumni.

President: Chad Robinson (DE 2001)

President-Elect: Michael Gonzales (NM 1973)

Vice President: Fernando Saldivar (CA 1994)

Secretary: Jamarr Brown (SC 2005)

Treasurer: John Blakley (MI 1976)

Liaison Officer: Rawle Andrews (TX 1983)

Parliamentarian: Zhan Okuda-Lim (NV 2010)

Communications Director: James Brown (CO 2008)

Technology Director: David Zavadsky (WI 1990)

Alumni Programs Director: Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz (MA 1985)

Eastern Regional Director: Gil Valadez (DE 1997)

Southern Regional Director: Chandini Bachman (AZ 1970)

Northern Regional Director: Andrew Bradley (IN 1996)

Western Regional Director: Elaine Sedenberg (TX 2006)

Central Regional Director: Katie Jo Baumgardner (KS 2006)

## Alumni News

### *Class of 1970*



In 2015, **Chandini Bachman (AZ 1970)** retired from the Legislative Branch of U.S. Government. For the past eight years she has been a front-line interpretive guide in the U.S. Capitol. She lives in downtown Bethesda, Maryland. In April Chandini traveled to Mountain View, California, to accept her father, Charles Bachman's induction as a Fellow of the Computer History Museum. **Elaine Sedenberg (TX 2006)** was Chandini's guest at the gala dinner (pictured). They caught up over lunch at Ananda Fuara Restaurant in SF the next day. Over the summer in Queens, New York City, Chandini witnessed new world records set for men and women at the Self-Transcendence 3100-Mile Race. Her role in this is to get the results printed in the New York Daily News at the end of the race. Ashprihanal Aalto, 44, of Finland, set a NEW WORLD RECORD of 40 days + 09:06:21, taking 23 hours and 10 minutes off the world record held by German legend Madhupran Wolfgang Schwerk since 2006. Mr. Aalto averaged 76.776 miles per day (123.559 km). Ms. Surasa Mairer, 56, of Austria, set a NEW WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD of 49 days+07:52:01. She broke the 17-year-old mark held by American ultra running immortal Suprabha Beckjord by 6 hours, 38 minutes. Ms. Mairer averaged 62.848 miles per day (101.144 km). In October, Chandini presented about her volunteer work with the Peace Run torch relay at the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City. Calls and emails from alumni are welcome.

This year, **Bob LaRochelle (CT 1970)** published another book. A HOME UNITED (Energion Publications) explores the issue of interreligious relationships, including marriage. It provides discussion material for couples and for those who work with them. This is his sixth book. He is currently working as a School Counselor and also as a pastor in a Lutheran church in Windsor, Conencticut.

**Royal Oakes (CA 1970)**, partner with the national law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson, and legal analyst for ABC Radio News and "Inside Edition," has launched a podcast, located at [www.royaloakes.com](http://www.royaloakes.com).

### *Class of 1972*

**Brian H. Eckert (NJ 1972)** has been appointed executive director, treasurer and trustee of the Virginia SPJ,SDX Educational Foundation, which awards fellowships supporting summer newsroom internships to promising student journalists. He is executive director of communications and public affairs at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va.

### *Class of 1973*

Colonel (USA, Ret) **Michael R. Gonzales (NM 1973)** left Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. (MTSI) on January 1, 2015 to start his new company, Three Towers Strategic Consulting, LLC (TTSC), in the National Capital Region. TTSC is a consulting company that supports government and industry clients, across the Joint, Inter-Agency, Inter-Governmental and Multi-National (JIIM) communities, in the areas of National Security, Homeland Security and Homeland Defense. Its core competencies include: Business Development, Policy Development, Advocacy, Recruiting, Team Building, Mission Analysis, Concepts Development, Strategic and Operational Planning, Operational Requirements Analysis, Subject Matter Expertise and Writing for Publication in the areas of National Security and National Homeland Security strategy and policy. The company is engaged in operational work in the Army and Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) arenas and in other evolving Army, National Guard and Joint programs, like the ongoing Network Integrated Evaluation (NIE) and the evolving Army Force 2025 Maneuvers and the Mega – Cities concepts that will prove to be vital parts of our National Military and National Security strategies as we move forward into the future. Colonel (USA, Ret) Gonzales is the President and Chief Executive Officer of TTSC and he is joined in this endeavor by a team of retired Senior General Officers and Flag Officers, former members of the Senior Executive Service and other senior retired officers and civilians from various branches of the Armed Forces, the Intelligence and Law Enforcement communities and from other federal, state and local agencies. Since becoming fully operational at the beginning of the year, its client base has grown from four to eighteen clients and it is postured to grow even further in the coming year.

Colonel (USA, Ret) Gonzales is the President – Elect of the U.S. Senate Youth Alumni Association and he lives in Waldorf, MD, with his wife, Christine and his children, Gabrielle (17) and Michael (15).

*Class of 1975*

**Mark Clark (FL 1975)** is a practicing emergency physician in Orlando, Florida involved in teaching program with emergency medicine resident and pediatric emergency medicine fellows. He is also the medical director of Arnold Palmer Hospital's Children's Emergency Department. He has been married 24 years and has 2 children.

*Class of 1976*

**Rex Gale (NH 1976)** recently moved from Seattle to Hilton Head Island SC and is continuing to work in the health care arena. While he has yet to be elected to any office, his daughter Ellen Troxclair was recently the youngest woman ever elected to the Austin City Council. With fond memories of his US Senate Youth Program days, what an excellent program this is and he has always been blessed to have been a part of it.

After 9 years with the University of Hawaii as its Vice President for Legal Affairs and University General Counsel, **Darolyn Lendio (HI 1976)** returned as a partner at the Honolulu law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP effective October 1, 2015 focusing on the areas of civil and commercial litigation, government and administrative law, employment law, land use, contracts, insurance law, insurance defense and bad faith law, government relations and higher education law. Best wishes for another fantastic USSYP in 2016! Dir. Tel. No. (808) 529-745 Email: lendio@m4law.com

*Class of 1977*

**Alan Aldinger (OH 1977)** is now Vice President, Media Relations, PNC Bank in Pittsburgh.

*Class of 1979*

**Donald P Brannan, Jr (AL 1979)** was appointed by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley to serve as State Health Information Technology Coordinator. He is responsible for managing the \$5 million Health Information Technology program for the state. He is also director of One Health Record®, Alabama's State Health Information Exchange. He is working with federal, state, and local government partners to support Alabama healthcare providers in improving the health of our citizens.

*Class of 1981*

**Randy Brantley (NC 1981)** serves as grants director for the Novant Health Foundation in Charlotte, North Carolina. Novant Health is a 15-hospital system located throughout the Southeast. For the past several years, Randy has enjoyed serving on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's U.S. Senate Youth Program delegate selection committee.

*Class of 1983*

AARP announced **Rawle Andrews Jr., Esq. (TX 1983)** would serve as Regional Vice President for AARP's Community, State and National Group's newly created region, which includes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Rawle will provide leadership and oversight of AARP's operations and activities in the states of California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

In May of 2014 **Kevin Shinkle (AZ 1983)** became the Chief Communications Officer-Senior Vice President at Delta Air Lines in Atlanta. Prior to that he was Global Business Editor at The Associated Press in New York.

*Class of 1984*

**Ramin Fathie (NV 1984)** has been executive producer of a film called "Breach" for the past year and a half. It's now on Amazon Prime and Vimeo On Demand. Please check it out when you have a chance and go to [Avaaz.org](http://Avaaz.org) to sign the anti-whaling petition. Illegal whaling of endangered species is not a thing of the past. It is ongoing, in Iceland, and against all International Environmental Conventions. Please show your support! <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/51316>

### *Class of 1985*

**Steven Rice (WY 1985)** continues to serve as political-military chief at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, focusing his team's efforts on the border to Turkey's south with Syria and Iraq. Wife Rita is working in the consular section and their three daughters are active in school and community activities.

### *Class of 1989*

In June of 2015 **Jeff Cashman (VT 1989)** was promoted by the US Air Force to the Rank of Brigadier General. He currently serves at the Pentagon as a Special Assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard.

### *Class of 1992*

**A. Benjamin Spencer (VA 1992)** was sworn into the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps on October 30, 2015. Spencer is the Earle K. Shawe Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law and teaches civil procedure. He began a 6-week basic training phase at Fort Benning in January, which will be followed by 3 1/2 months attending the U.S. Army JAG School in Charlottesville, Virginia. As a reservist, he will serve one weekend a month and two weeks each year, and will likely be initially tasked with reviewing written reports of alleged misconduct by officers. Spencer lives in Charlottesville with his wife Marlette and 8 children.

### *Class of 1994*

**Robert Pipkin (CA 1994)** got married this year to Elizabeth Sargent. He remains on active duty with the Navy and stationed in San Diego.

### *Class of 1996*

**Callie (Whitfield) Babbitt (FL 1996)** was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology. Callie spoke on her sustainability research at TEDxFlourCity this May (<http://tedxflourcity.com/?q=speaker/2015-main-event/dr-callie-babbitt>).

**Andrew Bradley (IN 1996)** was married on November 7th at the Roofless Church in New Harmony, IN to Julie Kilger of Cheyenne, WY, who is Manager, Teacher Leadership Development with Teach For America Indianapolis. Andrew also received his MA in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago this August and is Senior Policy Analyst with the Indiana Institute for Working Families. They live in the Irvington neighborhood of Indianapolis with Kiki the cat.

**Heidi Sipe (WA 1996)**, Umatilla School District Superintendent since 2007, has been named the 2016 Oregon Superintendent of the Year by the Oregon Association of School Executives (OASE) and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA). Sipe and her husband, Kyle, a middle school teacher in Umatilla, have two children. Their son, Caden, is a freshman at Washington State University. Her daughter, Cameron, is a junior at Umatilla High School.

### *Class of 1997*

On April 1, 2015, **Matt Madden (MA 1997)** argued Harris v. Viegelahn in the U.S. Supreme Court. The case concerned an important issue of consumer bankruptcy law that had divided the U.S. courts of appeals and bankruptcy courts. On May 18, the Court ruled unanimously for Matt's client, reversing the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Matt practices appellate and trial litigation at Washington D.C. litigation boutique Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Untereiner & Sauber LLP, where he was recently elected partner. Matt and his wife, Trish, live in Arlington, Virginia, with their four children.

### *Class of 1998*

After serving as a speechwriter to Secretaries of Defense Hagel and Carter, **Tarun Chhabra (LA 1998)** moved to the National Security Council at the White House last spring to become Director for Human Rights and National Security Issues. Tarun and his wife live in Washington with their three-year-old daughter.

**Marisa Futernick (CT 1998)** is London-based artist, currently working on a major project that I think might be of interest to the USSYP Alumni Association. The project, *13 Presidents / 13 Stories*, is an artist's book, with an accompanying series of exhibitions and events in the US and the UK, at leading institutions including the British Library and the Arnolfini (a major UK art space). More about the project: <http://marisafuternick.com/13presidents.html> Based on a recent cross-country US road trip to visit all of the nation's presidential libraries, *13 Presidents / 13 Stories* combines photographs from the journey with writing. These short stories mix fact and fiction, with each president from Herbert Hoover to George W. Bush serving as a character. The book will be published in September 2016. An extract from the book has also been published in the Nov/Dec issue of *Art Papers* magazine: [http://www.artpapers.org/feature\\_articles/2015\\_1112-Grits.html](http://www.artpapers.org/feature_articles/2015_1112-Grits.html)

#### *Class of 1999*

**Virginia Suvieu (CA 1999)** became a professor at Concordia University, Irvine, for the School of Business.

**Jeremy Utt (VA 1999)** is currently a mathematics teacher at Edward E. Drew, Jr. Middle School in Stafford County, Virginia, where he also serves as the adviser of the school's National Junior Honor Society chapter. He started working for Stafford County Public Schools in August 2015 after getting married to his wife Amanda in Williamsburg, Virginia in August 2015. He is currently enrolled in the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) program in Educational Leadership with Licensure at Old Dominion University. He and his wife live in Stafford County, Virginia.

#### *Class of 2001*

**Karim Meijer (TX 2001)** is currently married (Wife - Sarah) with three children Jaxson (4) and twins Ashton and Brooks (2). He is an orthopaedic sports medicine fellow in Gulf Breeze, FL at the Andrews Institute. He will be moving back to Dallas, Texas in July 2016 to join Texas Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Group after completion of his fellowship. USSYP is a wonderful organization and the memories he formed that week in Washington are still vivid today. He was hanging out with President Bush and Alan Jackson in the White House for about 15 minutes. President Bush wanted to meet the two Texas kids and just so happened to have Alan Jackson visiting!

#### *Class of 2002*

In the summer of 2015, **Curtis Atkins (OK 2002)** completed his PhD in political science at York University in Toronto, Canada. For the past four years, his teaching and research have been focused on the Democratic Party and public management reform in the U.S. and internationally. Currently, he works as the Opinion Editor at the daily progressive news website, *People's World*. In a volunteer capacity, he serves as Deputy Executive Director of ProudPolitics Canada, an organization dedicated to providing campaign training and networking opportunities for LGBTQ persons aspiring to a career in public service or elected office. His article, "Taking the Third Way Global," will appear in the Winter 2016 issue of *Jacobin* magazine.

#### *Class of 2004*

In 2015, **Elizabeth Kurtz (DC 2004)** started as Director of Communications for JTI, Inc., a small consulting firm advising companies on transnational business strategy, ethics and compliance, and internal and strategic communications. She also got engaged. In 2016, she will get married and finish my MBA at UNC Kenan-Flagler. The couple live in Northern Virginia. Elizabeth would love to reconnect with anyone in the area!

#### *Class of 2005*

**William Haun (CT 2005)** is currently an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Hunton & Williams LLP, where his practices focuses on complex commercial litigation, antitrust matters, and government investigations. In the past year, his appellate work included representing three former governors, a U.S. Congressman, and a number of business leaders and policy advocates as amici curiae supporting former Governor Bob McDonnell's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. He is currently working on a brief for high profile religious liberty law professors in support of the Little Sisters of the Poor's Supreme Court case under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. He also was elected to the Board of Directors for Boys Town, Washington, D.C. In the year ahead, Mr. Haun will be published in the winter issue of *National*

Affairs magazine providing an originalist critique of current free-speech law, and in Liberty's Nemesis, where he co-authored a book chapter with former U.S. Congressman David McIntosh on the separation of powers and the administrative state. He will also begin a one-year clerkship with Judge Janice Rogers Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Mr. Haun enjoys meeting up with other Senate Youth alums in the Washington area, and he would be pleased to be contacted in that regard.

In August **Gabriel Lade (OK 2005)** received his PhD from the University of California, Davis in Agricultural and Resource Economics. He then started working at Iowa State University as an Assistant Professor of Economics that same month. Most importantly, in November he married the love of his life Michaela Flagg, and they are happily settling into life in Iowa with their one year old German Shepherd, Hilde.

**Thomas Leeper (MN 2005)** moved from Aarhus, Denmark, where he lived and worked for three years as a Postdoc in the Department of Political Science at Aarhus University, to London, England where he is now an Assistant Professor in Political Behaviour at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

#### *Class of 2006*

**Chanda Choun (CT 2006)** left his Program Manager position at Indianapolis-based IT engineering firm Kinney Group and moved to northern Virginia in July to assume a Senior Cyber Security Analyst position at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. He continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve part-time at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**Corey B. French (TN 2006)** was married to Alexandra D. Robinson on August 15, 2015, at All Saints' Anglican Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is currently completing his PhD in English through the University of Virginia. He and his wife now live in Carmel, Indiana.

**Katie Jo (Baumgardner) Lunningham (KS 2006)** married Justin Lunningham on January 2, 2015. In May, she received her Juris Doctorate from Notre Dame Law School. In June, Katie Jo was one of ten law students selected as a 2015 Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award Winner for her article titled Resisting Rulemaking: Challenging the Montana Settlement's Title IX Sexual Harassment Blueprint, which was published in the Notre Dame Law Review. In July, Katie Jo passed the Missouri bar exam and moved to Kansas City. In September, she began working at Husch Blackwell LLP where she is an associate in the firm's higher education practice specialty group. While at Notre Dame Law, Katie Jo was a Weigand Scholar, along with **Robert Liam Reilly (KS 2009)**.

**Alex Stroman (SC 2006)** recently joined the Republican National Committee in Washington, DC as Director of Surrogates and Media Training. He came to the RNC after a stint in development communications at Americans for Prosperity Foundation.

#### *Class of 2008*

**Matthew Becker (ND 2008)** is now a first-year MBA student at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and in his spare time is working with music icon Bryan Ferry on his career-spanning photo book, to be published by Rizzoli in 2016.

After three years based in Boston with management consultancy Boston Consulting Group, **Jonathan Koch (IL 2008)** moved to Hong Kong in July to join Calvin Klein and lead strategy and business development for their Asia Pacific office. In addition to a serendipitous run-in with **Rui Bao (MO 2007)**, Jonathan enjoyed meeting up with several other USSYP alumni this past year including **Stephen Stolzenberg (WV 2008)**, **Rustin Fakheri (IL 2008)**, **Matthew Becker (ND 2008)**, and **Julie Raisch (NY 2008)**. He also completed his annual world tour trip with **James Brown (CO 2008)**, which this year took them to Los Angeles and Taipei in October.

**Alexandra (Ali) McKinney (NH 2008)** graduated from Yale Law School in May 2015. She recently moved to Anchorage, AK to clerk for Chief Justice Craig Stowers of the Alaska Supreme Court. Her Alaskan hobbies involve hiking, kayaking, and photography. Ali enjoyed her law school internship exploring client development and marketing work at Priori Legal, a legal marketplace startup. She hopes to pursue similar opportunities with these types of startups after her clerkship, when she plans to move to the Boston area.

**Joe Riley (TN 2008)** is completing his Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford and returning to the Army. He is stationed at Fort Lewis (just south of Seattle), but heading to Ranger School in a few weeks. At Oxford, he did a Masters and Doctorate in International Relations. Most importantly, he is engaged to Rachel Woodlee. They met through the Rhodes, and she is finishing her doctorate at Oxford as well, before coming out to Seattle to take a job with McKinsey. Their wedding will be in her hometown back in South Carolina this October, and they have a GSP puppy, Baroness Margaret Thatcher (AKA Maggie)!

*Class of 2009*

**Jeffrey Bolan (AL 2009)** graduated with a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Auburn University this past May and is now working in Huntsville, AL.

*Class of 2010*

**Matt Breuer (VT 2010)** worked his way up the ladder this year to the title Senior Media Strategist at Ampush, a leading social advertising start-up that just took on their first outside funding this fall.

**Michael Lai (CA 2010)** gave a TEDxYouth talk in Columbia Heights, DC about how to prepare for jobs that don't yet exist. Currently based in San Francisco, Michael is helping to build a new top tier university program at Minerva Schools.

**Christopher Liebold (OH 2010)** recently accepted a full time position as law clerk at the law firm of Albrechta & Coble in Fremont, Ohio and is running for Sandusky County Commissioner this fall and is unopposed in the Democratic primary for the seat.

*Class of 2011*

**Alessandro Calderoni (OK 2011)** just finished his first semester at Conception Seminary College in Missouri. (This is the same Seminary where Justice Clarence Thomas attended at one point in his life. Justice Clarence Thomas was also the Supreme Court speaker for USSYP 2011.) Since July of 2015, he has been a Catholic seminarian for the Catholic Diocese of Tulsa.

**Allen Lollis (SC 2011)** graduated from Wofford College with a B.A. in History and Government in May, he is currently employed at Wofford as a Resident Director and Coordinator of Student Activities.

In May 2015, **Megan MacInnes (OH 2011)** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with Honors in Communication and Public Service. This summer, she moved to New York City and began working in corporate public relations.

*Class of 2012*

Over Thanksgiving, **Kristina Pedersen (KS 2012)** graduated summa cum laud from DePaul University in Chicago with a degree in Art & Design and The History of Art and Architecture. Her honors thesis was published as her manifesto. She continues to make work under the name Jimmy Coyote.

This May, **Bailey White (NC 2012)** will be graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Business Administration and History double major, and a minor in Music. Next year, he will be moving to DC and working with Deloitte Consulting, specifically in their Federal Human Capital Division. He very much looks forward to spending more time in DC and reconnecting with USSYP alumni.

*Class of 2013*

**Amy Sapp (FL 2013)** produced for Good Morning America in Washington, D.C. as a Production Intern and Assistant (The studio is located adjacent to The Mayflower Hotel! Circle of life!)

**Sasha Shilko (MN 2013)** joined Bain & Company Los Angeles office as an associate consultant in August after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a double major in finance and accounting and an economics minor.

### *Class of 2014*

**Jesse Austin (NH 2014)** has recently been enrolled into the University of New Hampshire where he is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in political science and security studies. In addition to serving on the Martin O'Malley presidential campaign and Senator Kelly Ayotte re-election campaign, Jesse serves as a representative on the university's Student Senate. Jesse also serves as an executive member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, which is a statutory committee in the New Hampshire State Legislature dedicated to providing youth input and perspective on state legislation. Jesse will be interning at the Democratic National Convention this summer.

In the past year, **Malachi Byrd (DC 2014)** has been crowned the inaugural DC Youth Poet Laureate and published his second book of poetry, *Which Picture Would They Use?* (2015). He performed in South Africa, the White House, and on TVOne's *Lexus Verses and Flow*.

### *Class of 2015*

**Josh Hughes (IA 2015)** ran for and won a seat on his local school board in Iowa, making him the youngest elected official in Iowa. <https://medium.com/middle-of-nowhere-center-of-everything/taking-the-dive-a432f0c53315>

## **From the Editor's Desk**

*James Brown (CO 2008), Communications Director*

I have been working at an airline technology startup in New York City for the past year, and I have enjoyed making the city home. Outside of Washington Weekend, I've managed to catch-up with new and old alumni friends—**Keith Martin (DOD/WV 1982)**, **David Zavadsky (WI 1990)**, **Kylie Angell (CT 2008)**, **Matt Becker (ND 2008)**, **Julie Chang (MD 2008)**, **Julie Raisch (NY 2008)**, **Monike Santana (ME 2008)**, **Zephaniah Smith (CA 2008)**, **Adam Wexelbaum (FL 2008)**, **Arvin Ahmadi (VA 2010)**, and **Jon Koch (IL 2008)**, my travel companion to Taiwan, Hong Kong, New York, and Washington.

I'd love to connect with more alumni in the New York area. Please visit a new group for alumni: USSYP Alumni in New York. Even if you're just visiting, we'd love to connect.



Please consider joining USSYAA's Official Facebook group named

**United States Senate Youth Alumni Association**

and LinkedIn group named

**United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Alumni Network**

**A digital version of this newsletter may be retrieved online at <http://ussyaa.org/news>**