

UNITED STATES
SENATE YOUTH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Annual Newsletter 2018

President's Letter

Andrew Bradley (IN 1996), USSYAA President

Dear United States Senate Youth Alumni and Friends,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. 2018 has been a year of progress, growth, and change, both for our country and the USSYAA. And while we've seen losses, including that of former President George H.W. Bush, with your help our resolve will be undiminished due to our shared commitment to acting in the name of public service.

Remembering former President Bush, our fellow Senate Youth alumna Senator Susan Collins (ME 1971) said: "He didn't think compromise was a dirty word. He thought it was the way you got things done, and he was always respectful to those who disagreed with him. He would listen to their point of view. We could use more of that in this country right now." This spirit of civility and bipartisanship is well-known by our Alumni, particularly those who met with President Bush at the White House from 1989-1992, a spirit embodied in his inaugural speech, saying "America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principle. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the Nation and gentler the face of the world."

As Senate Youth alumni, we know that for civic society to thrive, actions are necessary to back up well-meaning words and to give life to the democracy we hold dear. The USSYAA is working to provide opportunities for our members to elevate actions into service in their communities and help give back to the nation we love. In 2018, we unveiled the 'Early Career Public Service Recognition Awards', to formally lift up our alumni who dedicate themselves to public service – whether it be in the public sector, military, or nonprofit fields. We want to shine a light on the service of our alumni who often work for little recognition (not to mention pay!) in the early parts of their careers. This year we recognized nearly two dozen alumni under 35 for their dedication to public service, and we intend to make this a regular feature of the USSYAA's work to encourage civic participation and leadership among all alumni.



You can help. Even if you don't currently work in the government, military, or non-profit fields, your donation to the USSYAA will help us open more opportunities for alumni mentorship and service in communities throughout the country. We currently award scholarships every year for alumni pursuing graduate studies related to the mission of the Senate Youth program. With your support, we can also ensure all alumni pursuing early career public service can receive their awards in person and have resources to carry forward the mission of 'Education, Leadership, Public Service' wherever their careers take them.

In Service,

Andrew Bradley (IN 1996)
USSYAA President 2018-2020

Campus-Based and Regional Alumni Events

We are always excited to help alumni reunite—at the Mayflower in March, on your campus, or in your town. If you are interested in hosting events, feel free to reach out to any member of the board for support in planning events, including our best practices, connecting you with alumni in your region, and communicating the message.



This year we had two great events in the Boston area.

April: Admitted Students Day

USSYP alumni at Harvard University hosted a welcome reception for newly admitted students and USSYP alumni from across the Boston area. We had an excellent mix of current students, prospective admits, graduates from Harvard and beyond who work in the local area, and USSYP alumni from other local schools.

Our alumni had a wonderful opportunity to reflect on their college years, share insights about the schools they attended, and helped to inform graduating high school and college seniors about future university and job plans.

November: Fall Kickoff!

The Northeast Region hosted its first Fall Kickoff on November 2nd for USSYP alumni in the greater Boston area. Alumni stretching as far back as the USSYP class of 1975 came together for a lively dinner and reminisce about our weeks in Washington D.C, with a great chance to compare how Washington Week has changed over the years. Timed right before the midterm elections, our alumni left no political issue or candidate off the table at our dinner conversation.

Given how far and wide the USSYP alumni network spreads, regional events outside of our annual reunion in Washington are an exciting opportunity to meet alumni from different years whose paths may cross your own.

Alumni Association Scholarships

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 and fill out our easy donation form. With your support, we can fund post-graduate studies of more people who are committed to public service.

If you are interested in applying, applications are accepted every October, and Alumni Programs Director **Vicki Cundiff (CO 1973)** can provide more information on the application and submission requirements.

Update on Scholarship Recipients

In 2018, **Joyce Kim (TX 2011)** was the winner of the Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst St Alumni Scholarship. The scholarship went towards academic fees for her studies at the University of Cambridge.

Now, Joyce focuses on how education can be a force to reduce socioeconomic inequities, bridge cultural divides, and build empowered and resilient communities. She is currently a researcher at Harvard Business School where she looks at how higher education can innovate to better address 21st century challenges. Her prior educational experience ranges



from policy advising at the U.S. Department of Education and the UN to designing educational experiences for youth in Bali and Tokyo. She has also researched the civic engagement of North Korean defectors as a Fulbright Scholar and launched a digital storytelling project for defectors based in London, Seoul, and the U.S. in conjunction with the U.S. State Department. She serves as a youth advisor to the U.S. National Commission to UNESCO.

She has a B.A. magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, where she served as the first female Student Body President and a M.Phil. with distinction from the University of Cambridge in Education, Globalisation and International Development, where her research focused on student experiences and identities in internationalizing South Korean universities. At Cambridge, she was a member of St. John's College and a Rotary Global Grant Scholar.

In 2013, **Elaine Sedenberg (TX 2006)** won the scholarship, and she is currently wrapping up her dissertation at UC Berkeley on instances of public good uses of private sector data, where she uses unique cases of sharing arrangements to inform policymaking both at private companies as well as federal recommendations. Elaine is currently an Affiliate researcher at the Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society. Elaine has remained committed to serving on the USSYAA Board to give back and continues to work toward broader inclusion and outreach in the alumni community.



Alumni Weekend 2018 in Review

On March 3, alumni returned 'home' to the Mayflower Hotel and continued our annual reunion tradition of joining together to celebrate USSYP's longstanding mission of public service. This year, USSYAA introduced an exciting new award at the annual dinner: the Early Career Public Service award, given to alumni who are 35 or younger and working full-time in public service.

More than twenty young alumni received this inaugural award, including young professionals working in all levels—federal, state, and local—government were recognized, along with their peers in the non-profit sector. Many were in attendance at the dinner to accept their certificate in person, and it was exciting to see the wide variety of service careers in attendance! For

example, one award recipient serves as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice (**Thomas Johnson, LA 2006**), while another, **Amanda Patarino (CO 2012)**, works for the non-profit Partnership for Public Service. We also honored several alumni who are serving in the military, including **Matthew Topitzer (CT 2010)**, who serves as a First Lieutenant in the US Army and Company Executive Officer, 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion - Airborne.

In short, the inaugural Early Career Public Service Awards were conferred upon a wonderful array of young public servants! At future dinners, we will continue to support and encourage those young alumni who are living out the mission of USSYP. If you know young alumni who are working in a public service field, please submit your nominations to awards@ussyaa.org.

This year's festivities also saw the Association honor the recipients of USSYAA's premier public service awards: the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award and the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Former Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and retired



Marine Corps Major General, was the recipient of the 2018 James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award. Highly recommended by young alumni who remembered his speeches to USSYP delegates, General Bolden regaled the audience with his stories about outer space while also inspiring attendees to overcome adversity here on Earth.

Mr. Max Stier, CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, was awarded the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award. Max, who leads the Center for Presidential Transition, discussed his experiences working with incoming administrations to ensure they are ready to govern with evidence-based solutions. His remarks provided timely insight into the role that nonpartisan non-profits play in helping make government more effective and efficient.

The 2018 dinner at the Mayflower was a great success! A special thanks to the expert event planning of **Bryce Carson (OH 2009)**. We hope everyone had a great evening filled with excellent food and even better company!

Please save the date for our annual alumni reunion weekend: March 2, 2019. Our annual dinner will be held on Saturday this year.

One additional note:

Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather in the D.C. area, many flights into DCA and BWI were cancelled or delayed. We missed you, and hope you can make it to our 2019 dinner! If you were unable to attend the 2018 dinner because of inclement weather, please contact awards@ussyaa.org for information on refund assistance.

Treasurer's Report

USSYAA operates on a cash basis and for the period January 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018, the year-to-date ("YTD") expenses were \$34,668.74 and consist of scholarships, the Washington week annual event dinner, regional events, and various operating & administrative costs.

Assets of the USSYAA are held at Fidelity Investments and consist mainly of mutual funds, exchange-traded funds and common stocks. The YTD rate of return is 7.74% as compared to the S & P 500 Index of 3.01% for the same period. The rate of return includes dividends/interest, realized and unrealized gains/losses.

USSYAA's Finance Committee manages its investments with goals to maximize the portfolio assets and to support the organization's Mission Statement. Contributions from members are a critical part of the alumni's goals to increase its scholarship awards and programs to ensure future success. Tax returns are available online at ussyaa.org/about/taxreturns.

Donations that Matter

As the year comes to a close, we want to thank you for the support you've shown to the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association. Whether you attended one of our regional gatherings, participated in our Town Hall teleconference, provided an update for this newsletter, or supported us with a financial contribution, your activity has helped us to accomplish Mom Hearst's goal of keeping Senate Youth Program alumni connected.

Contributions from our members are the most critical component of our funding structure. The USSYAA has an all-volunteer Board of Directors, with people from all walks of life serving in both advisory and working capacities to bring scholarships, news, and events to past delegates to the United States Senate Youth Program. Your contributions don't pay stipends to directors—they pay the very real expenses of our mission to build avenues of communication among alumni and to provide financial assistance for the professional educational needs of alumni.

To make donations to the alumni association as easy as possible, we have established an online donation portal at www.ussyaa.org to facilitate your contribution and will e-mail you a receipt. Donations mailed to our post office box will receive a confirmation letter from our Treasurer. The USSYAA is a 501(c)(3) public charity; please inquire with your tax professional as to whether your donation to our organization is tax-deductible and with your workplace as to whether matching funds are available.

In addition to traditional donation channels, the USSYAA is registered to accept donations from the Amazon Smile Foundation. If you make purchases via smile.amazon.com, you can designate the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association as the recipient of the Amazon Smile Foundation's donations. This is a painless way to help the USSYAA receive funds, without doing anything different in your daily life.

Again, thank you for your participation in our activities, whether it be financial, logistical, or by your presence at our events and meetings. You truly can and do make a difference.

Meet the Board

The USSYAA Board of Directors meets monthly to coordinate our scholarship, awards, alumni weekend, and other opportunities related to the alumni association. 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. All board member email addresses are available on the Board of Directors webpage at ussyaa.org.

President: Andrew Bradley (IN 1996)
President-Elect: Gil Valadez (DE 1997)
Vice-President: Elaine Sedenberg (TX 2006)
Secretary: Amanda Patarino (CO 2012)
Treasurer: John Blakley (MI 1976)
Liaison Officer: Katie Jo Lunningham (KS 2006)
Parliamentarian: Antonella Blanco (WV 2017)
Communications Director: James Brown (CO 2008)
Technology Director: David Zavadsky (WI 1990)
Alumni Programs Director: Victoria Cundiff (CO 1973)
Immediate Past President: Michael Gonzales (NM 1973)
Executive Director: Michael Sundermeyer (MO 1969)
Deputy Executive Director & Special Advisor: John Spisak

Central Regional Director Gerald Fraas (SD 2015)
Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Eastern Regional Co-Directors Catherine Zhang (PA 2015) and Benjamin Sorkin (NY 2016)
Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

National Capital Regional Director André Gonzales (NM 2016)
District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland

Northern Regional Director Josh Hanson (WI 2012)
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Southern Regional Director Dallas McCash (TN 2015)
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia

Western Regional Director Ryan Montgomery (OR 2012)
(Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington)

Alumni News

If you didn't receive several emails asking for your contribution for alumni news, please reach out to technology_director@ussyaa.org to make sure we have your latest email address.

Class of 1967

Jon and Lenna (Baranoff) Kottke, (NM and OK 1967, respectively), are enjoying Lenna's retirement from a 25 year career in non-profit management. (Jon is trying to cut back on his legal work, but his clients have other ideas!) They enjoyed a trip to Budapest, Vienna and Prague in September, and welcomed their third grandchild in October. They continue to reside in Boulder, Colorado, where they settled in 1972, following their graduation from Stanford University. They will always be grateful to the Senate Youth Program for introducing them.

Class of 1970

Chandini Bachman (AZ 1970) made her first overseas trip in a decade last December and January. She was with 300 of her best spiritual friends in Montenegro and 150 of those friends in Croatia (on the Adriatic Sea coast in the former Yugoslavia). She is a "run bunny" these days; meaning she can wear the team uniform and walks quite a bit but no longer runs. One of the highlights was participating in school events of the Oneness-Home Peace Run global torch relay. Interestingly, the school in Sutomore, Montenegro, had a plaque showing that USAID assisted in construction of the building. **Margo Jackson (DC 1970)** and Chandini have been friends now for 48 years and get together regularly.

Margo Jackson (DC 1970) is a volunteer with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in support of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). She is working with other volunteers to ensure the success of the June 2019 Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW). They are asking companies to donate items for a silent auction with the proceeds to assist the work of the ONMS. In March, she is traveling to Singapore to participate in the first World-Wide Congress on Submerged Cultural Resources. Margo has two sons and five grandkids and is excited that she may have more as her youngest son will marry in September 2019.

Class of 1973

Vicki Cundiff (CO 1973) continues to practice intellectual property law in New York City. She teaches seminars in IP at Yale Law School and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She has also been working with the Sedona Conference and a team of dedicated lawyers to help think about and develop best practices in trade secrets law. She has also enjoyed working this year with Open Style Labs, a not-for-profit organization that helps design clothing and adaptive devices for people grappling with disabilities, and with the York Theatre Group in New York, helping high school and college students learn the ropes of new and classical musical theatre.

Rex Gale (NH 1973) kicked off TEDxHiltonHead, with a sold-out crowd and talks that focused on our theme of resilience. The next event was held on December 1, TEDxHiltonHeadWomen, which included both live, local talks, as well as the premiere of talks that were given at the global TEDWomen event, held earlier that same week in Palm Springs, California. Rex's daughter will soon finish her four-year term on the Austin City Council.

After completing a 20-year Air Force career including two tours at the Pentagon, **Joe Alfano (NJ 1973)** is in his 21st year with Delta Air Lines as an international pilot on the Boeing 767-400 based in Atlanta, Georgia. This year Joe and his wife, Betty, gave their daughter, Angela, away in marriage to Michael O'Brien at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City with a reception following at the Current at Chelsea Piers. Betty recently retired from teaching and her new mantra is "Every Child Left Behind." Joe and Betty reside in Northern Virginia.

Class of 1974

Marc S Komisarow (GA 1974) graduated from Hamilton College in 1978 and Tulane Law in 1981. He lives in Atlanta with his wife of twenty-six years. After a brief stint as tax and securities lawyer in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico, he returned to Georgia, where he has an investment advisory practice. Fellow '74s are encouraged to get in touch.

Class of 1975

Carol Frost (AK 1975) completed a 3-year term as Division Director for Earth Sciences at the National Science Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia, in January, and is now back to her regular job as a professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wyoming. She enjoyed the time in the Washington, D.C. area and thought fondly of Ma Hearst greeting her at the Mayflower after a long trip from Anchorage whenever she'd walk past the hotel. At that time, Carol never dreamed she'd be living in the nation's capital so many years later.

Class of 1979

Tom Lee (TN 1979) this year became the member in charge of the Nashville office of Frost Brown Todd, an AmLaw 150 law firm, and continues as the managing principal of CivicPoint, the firm's government relations subsidiary. Tom is also studying to become a certified lay preacher in the United Methodist Church, and preached his second sermon to his home church in October. Tom's daughter, Virginia, is a freshman at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia, where she is a member of the college's IHSA equestrian team.

David Shanet Clark (WV 1979) was invested into the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, the Knights Templar Priory of the Holy Rood in Atlanta, Georgia on March 10, 2018.

Class of 1982

Joseph Perkins (IN 1982) started as a corporate attorney with Allison Transmission, Inc. The practice includes cyber security and data privacy, regulatory compliance, and global business operations. The regulatory co plain experience practice takes him to Washington, D.C. frequently, where he often thinks about the Senate Youth Program. Recently, Joseph was elected to the leadership team of the Association of Corporate Counsel International Legal Affairs Network.

Class of 1987

Ben Cameron (IN 1987) is a Catholic priest and a member of the Fathers of Mercy, a missionary preaching order in the Catholic Church. After serving for 20 years in various administrative capacities, and as a missionary preaching throughout the United States, Canada and Australia, Fr. Ben was appointed pastor of St. Helen Catholic Church (Glasgow) and Our Lady of the Caves Catholic Church (Horse Cave, next to Mammoth Cave National Park) in south-central Kentucky in May 2018. He currently has the two churches, two counties, about 350 families (English and Spanish speaking), and two building projects.

Class of 1989

Brian Kamoie (PA 1989) has been promoted to serve as Associate Administrator for Mission Support at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In this role, he leads five lines of business support to FEMA's mission before, during, and after disasters (information technology, human capital, procurement, security, and facilities). Prior to this role, he served as Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs at FEMA (2013-2017) and as Senior Director for Preparedness Policy at the National Security Council at the White House (2009-2013).

Brennan Price (TN 1989) is a Senior Principal Engineer in Regulatory Affairs at EchoStar Corporation, representing the company in domestic and international spectrum management proceedings. He, his wife Ericka Lenz, and two daughters, Ellagrace (6) and Rosemarie (11 months) live in Vienna, Virginia. He aims to attend a USSYAA Alumni event someday.

Class of 1992

Eric Scott Jones (OK 1992) published a book entitled "Open: A Memoir of Faith, Family, and Sexuality in the Heartland" with Literati Press.

Class of 1994

Fernando Saldivar, SJ (CA 1994) professed First Vows in the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) on August 11, 2018 at Santa Clara University in California. He has been missioned to Loyola University Chicago to enter their M.A. in Social Philosophy program as the next step towards eventual ordination to the Catholic priesthood. Prior to entering the Jesuits in 2016, Fernando worked as a civil litigator in Los Angeles for eleven years.

Class of 1995

Michael Mahan Lawlor (MT 1995) started his own law firm in September of this year. His office is located in Missoula, Montana. He represents clients throughout Montana in business transactions and estate planning. His primary area of specialty is alcoholic beverage and gambling licensing and compliance.

Class of 1996

Mark Baumgardner (MD 1996) made Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers Public Sector, now Guidehouse LLP, in July. Mark leads Guidehouse's work with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) including work with the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. Mark leads a team of 40 management consultants focused on modernizing transportation policy, driving efficiencies within DOT, and improving capital project oversight and cross-government collaboration. Mark also purchased a new home in Washington, D.C. He would love to connect with anyone in the D.C. area.

Class of 1997

Kevin Bruce (LA 1997) lives in Houston with his wife, Susan, and their four young children: Caroline (5), Sutton (3), William (1) and Rex (2 months). Kevin is the Director of Government and Public Affairs for Fieldwood Energy LLC, one of the largest producers of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico focused on the acquisition, exploration, and development of assets in the shallow and deepwater U.S. Gulf of Mexico, offshore Mexico, and the Gulf Coast regions.

Duncan Maru (MA 1997) and his three-generation family of six moved to New York City, where he and his partner Sheela have joined on the faculty of the new Arnhold Institute for Global Health at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. There, they are continuing a decade-long collaboration around public sector health system innovation and research with an organization Duncan co-founded, Possible.

Class of 1998

Erik Beach (WI 1998) lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where he will be part of an exciting new project starting in January, 2019: the Local Voices Network. A collaboration between University of Wisconsin professor Kathy Cramer and MIT, Local Voices Network records and aggregates small group conversations in which people speak about what matters to them, opening a new listening channel to journalists, leaders, and the community. In November, Erik attended the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD) conference.

Class of 1999

James Francis (RI 1999) worked as a White House intern in both Clinton and Bush Administrations in Fall 1999 and Summer 2001. He also interned for Senator Lincoln Chafee and John Kerry's presidential campaign. He was a student docent and aide to Honorary Professor and former Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun. James graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2007 with a degree in Political Science and film and media studies. James has lived in Los Angeles since 2011.

Class of 2001

Karim Meijer (TX 2001) is a board certified orthopaedic surgeon fellowship trained in sports medicine. He and his partners provide care for athletes of all ages and levels of competition. He is currently working on research to prevent ACL injuries and is developing a new technique to address distal biceps tendon ruptures. He and his wife have been married for 8 years and have three children. They stay busy with their kids through school, sports, and church activities.

Class of 2003

Alan Wang (AZ 2003) finished his fellowship in Epilepsy at the University of Miami in July. He and his wife have moved back home to Phoenix, and he started his first job as a neurohospitalist at the Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix.

Hodari Brown (MI 2003) accepted a position as the Public Affairs Specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration Michigan District Office and was appointed as a facilitator for the National Alliance of Mental Illness Small Group in Metro Detroit.

Class of 2004

Shortly after **Elizabeth (Kurtz) Thottam (DC 2004)** and her husband welcomed their daughter last year, Elizabeth left her job in communication consulting to the federal government and struck out on a new, dual career path as an independent editorial consultant and a Pilates teacher. She teaches at a classical Pilates studio, specializing in prenatal/postpartum, and provide editorial services to private clients, both in Northern Virginia. She enjoys pursuing interests in health, wellness, and writing over the last year and a half, while discovering the world anew through her daughter.

Marc Langston (KS 2004) launched an ambitious historical video project called "The History Hat." Aimed at bringing history to life through social media, the first Season of the History Hat centers around the Dupont Circle neighborhood. All alumni were briefly residents of historical Dupont during our week in Washington hosted at the Mayflower Hotel. To learn more visit thehistoryhat.com.

Class of 2005

Kaitlin Spak (CA 2005) relocated to Denver, Colorado earlier this year; she still works as a consulting engineer and is now a licensed professional engineer in Colorado as well as California.

Will Haun (CT 2005) continues practices appellate and trial litigation at Shearman & Sterling LLP, in Washington, D.C. He successfully argued and briefed an expedited appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, argued a motion before the U.S. District Court for D.C., and wrote amicus briefs on behalf of a U.S. Senator, law professors, and non-profits in respective religious liberty cases before the Third, Ninth, and D.C. Circuits. His article on "The Virtues of Judicial Self-Restraint" appears in the current issue of National Affairs and has received praise from prominent conservative commentators and professors. Will lives with his wife and children in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and enjoys meeting alums.

Thomas Leeper (MN 2005) and his wife, Heather, continue to live in London after a three-year stint in Aarhus, Denmark. Thomas recently made the transition from academia to industry, leaving his position at the London School of Economics and Political Science to take on an exciting new gig on the Core Data Science Team at Facebook in London. They are expecting their first child in January. With Justice Kennedy leaving the court this year, Washington Week 2005 feels both a long time ago and yet it's almost like yesterday that they heard him speak in the Supreme Court chamber.

Class of 2006

Chanda Choun (CT 2006) works as a Senior Technical Manager at Securonix, a cybersecurity software company specializing in Big Data Security Analytics. He was a recent election candidate for Arlington County Board in Virginia and continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve part-time at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Katie Jo (Baumgardner) Lunningham (KS 2006) began clerking for Judge Elizabeth L. Branch on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in April 2018. Prior to clerking, Katie Jo practiced law at Husch Blackwell LLP in Kansas City, where she specialized in higher education litigation and regulatory compliance. In May 2018, Katie Jo was elected to the Baylor University Board of Regents. At age 29, she became the youngest Regent in Baylor history.

After spending the last three years at The Bridgespan Group, a nonprofit consulting firm in San Francisco, **Brian Bills (VA 2006)** started a new role at Upstream USA. Upstream works with doctors and medical clinics to expand access to contraception - especially the most effective methods, IUDs and implants. He is doing strategy and operations work, recently raising over \$200M and expanding to three new states: Washington, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. Upstream is hiring ~80 staff in 2019, so please send talented folks their way.

Class of 2007

Chelsea St. Onge-May (ME 2007) and her husband Edward Davis celebrated the birth of their daughter, Andromeda, in July.

Taren (Kingser) Kindree (MT 2007) is teaching at the United World College Red Cross Nordic located among the fjords of western Norway.

Class of 2008

In May, **Tonei Glavinic (AK 2008)** joined the Board of Directors of Trans Lifeline (translifeline.org), a nonprofit organization that improves the quality of transgender people's lives through direct service, material support, advocacy, and education.

Taylor Smith (OR 2008) started a nonprofit called Belong Together, which exists to spiritually invest in refugees through mentorship. Both with resettled refugees in Portland, Oregon, and refugees living in Rwanda, our programs create safe spaces for honest conversations about who they are, where they come from and where they're going, as well as opportunities for refugees to lead "love actions" of service in their communities.

Class of 2009

Yvonne Tindell (AZ 2009) graduated from Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, passed the Arizona bar exam, and started a clerkship at the Arizona Court of Appeals. Any alumni in Arizona should connect with her in Phoenix.

Wells Ellenberg (GA 2009) was promoted to governmental affairs manager for Southern Company, a Fortune 150 energy company, in Washington, DC.

Class of 2010

Axel Urie (CO 2010) graduated from the George Washington University Law School and successfully passed the District of Columbia bar exam in 2018. Following the bar exam he and his significant other took an overland trip across southern Africa, traveling from the Atlantic coast to the Indian ocean and visiting over 6 countries. He will remain in the Washington, D.C. area and work in international trade and customs law.

Dillon Malone (IA 2010) passed the July 2018 Iowa bar exam and is now an associate attorney with Carney & Appleby, P.L.C. in Des Moines, Iowa.

In 2017, **Hunter Brunwald (OK 2010)** became engaged to his fiancée, Endija. This year, he began a career with Epic Systems, the largest vendor of electronic medical records in the United States. He now lives in Madison, Wisconsin, and looks forward to attending future alumni events in Chicago.

Class of 2011

Erika Batiz (MN 2011) graduated in May from Tufts University with a B.S. in Computer Science and a minor in Foreign Policy Analysis. She accepted an offer with Abbott, where she currently works in medical device cybersecurity.

In July, **Megan MacInnes (NH 2011)** got engaged to Brandon Fleischer. They were engaged on July 5, 2018, at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where they met. They live together in New York City and plan to get married on October 11, 2020, in York, Maine.

Allen Lollis (SC 2011) received his Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy from Converse College. Additionally, he was appointed by the President of the S.C. Association of Marriage and Family Therapists as the legislative liaison for the state organization and looks forward to working with mental health professionals to advance meaningful policies in South Carolina and the country.

Alex Lichtenstein (VA 2011) is currently a 2L at Yale Law School. She is particularly interested in civil rights work and impact litigation, and would welcome a chance to talk to any other USSYP alum lawyers who have wisdom to share.

Class of 2012

Michael Tappel (AK 2012) recently moved to Seattle to start a new role at McKinsey & Company, where he is colleagues with **Sam Kurland (AK 2012)**. Michael has recently taken to long distance running and will be competing in his first Boston Marathon in April 2019.

Amanda Patarino (CO 2012) moved to Cambridge in August to pursue a Masters of Public Policy degree at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She's a co-chair of the Women in Power Conference and an associate editor of the Kennedy School Review, the HKS policy journal.

Monica DiLeo (CT 2012) moved to New York City this year to take a job with the Applied Critical Thinking Function at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. If you live in New York, and especially if you also work at the Fed, please reach out!

Class of 2013

Thomas Krasnican (AK 2013) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in May and commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He spent the summer as an intern with the Navy's congressional liaison office to the House of Representatives. He is now completing a Master of Public Policy degree at the University of Chicago, where he is also directing and co-hosting a podcast called *"Thank You For Your Service": A Hard Look at American Civil-Military Affairs*. Those interested in the military's relationship with society can find the podcast on [iTunes](#) or [Spotify](#).

Class of 2014

In May, **Avalon Roche (DoDEA 2014)** graduated from Virginia Tech magna cum laude with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Public and Urban Affairs. In August, she began law school at American University Washington College of Law.

Patrick Flanigan (LA 2014) graduated from Princeton with a degree in Politics and a minor in African Studies. He moved to Washington, D.C. and works for Louisiana Senator John Kennedy.

Bobby Larsen (NE 2014) graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May with a degree in political science. In August, he entered Nebraska College of Law. Bobby enjoys going to school and living in Nebraska and plans to practice law there after receiving his J.D.

Garrett Kalt (NV 2014) recently moved to London to pursue a MSc in Politics and Communication. LEAD Green, a nonprofit he founded with the goal of providing youth in my hometown community access to higher education and leadership development, is nearly two years old. They have provided scholarships and served over 100 students in Churchill County.

Class of 2015

Daniel Green (IN 2015) will be graduating in May from Indiana University Bloomington with a B.A. in Medical Science & Society and a B.S. in Business Economics. In July, he will start full-time with Claro Healthcare in Chicago, working as a healthcare consulting analyst.

Class of 2016

Andrew Figueiredo (KS 2016) is in his final year at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He was recently nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the Students' Society of McGill University, the not-for-profit corporation tasked with representing and serving McGill's undergraduate student body.

Avery Allen (OR 2016) was awarded the Mount Vernon Leadership Fellowship this past summer as well as a Newman Civic Foundation Fellowship for the 2018-2019 school year. Avery is spending the fall semester studying abroad at the University of Havana in Cuba and co-authored an article about migrant detention that was published in the journal *Latino Studies* in April 2018.

Elyssa Vondra (WI 2016) is in the U.S. Army Public Affairs Office at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. She is a full-time reporter at the post's official newspaper, *The Fort Jackson Leader*. She freelances for other local newspapers on the side, and she just got married.

Class of 2017

Meena Venkataramanan (AZ 2017) received the Harvard College Thomas A. Dingman Emerging Leader Award. It is presented to up to three first-year students who have demonstrated outstanding involvement and initiative during their first year at Harvard. Meena also received the Harvard College Detur Book Prize and was named a John Harvard Scholar. The Detur Book Prize is awarded to sophomores who attained very high academic standing in their first year at Harvard and honors them with a book of their choice. John Harvard Scholars are students who are ranked in the top 5% of their class.

Madison Cline (KY 2017) was elected National Co-Chair for Define American, a non-profit that strives to change the cultural narrative of immigration. As National Co-Chair, Madison will represent over 70 college chapters across the United States.

Dennis Ruprecht (NH 2017) was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives and was sworn in on December 5.

Class of 2018

Cameron Gehlert (MO 2018) is in his first year of college, although he is of sophomore standing because of dual credit, at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. He gives tours, meets with prospective students, and is a friendly face for Westminster. Cameron was appointed to the student diversity council and started a student organization called Dharma Group, where students can learn about Buddhism. He has been chosen to be a part of an Interfaith Council for surrounding communities in the spring. Cameron also writes articles and makes cartoons for our campus newspaper *the Columns*. He is involved in environmental student organization (ECOs).

Ely Osbourne (WV 2018) began a double major with political science as well as national security and intelligence at Fairmont State University in West Virginia.

Alumni news has been edited for brevity, clarity, and relevance.

From the Editor's Desk

Thank you again for the wonderful contributions to this alumni newsletter. Throughout the year, we are seeking ways to increase programming and content for alumni. If you have ideas or would like to host an event, please reach out to any member of the board. Also, if you're looking to reconnect with someone you met during Washington Week, please feel free to reach out directly at communications_director@ussyaa.org. I would love to help you.

This next year I will be living in Paris and Singapore, and I would love to connect with alumni who find themselves in either. Happy new year!