



Annual Newsletter 2019

President's Letter

Andrew Bradley (IN 1996), USSYAA President

Dear United States Senate Youth Alumni and friends,

I hope the close of 2019 finds you and your family well. As the year and the decade come to an end, we as Senate Youth alumni can reflect on the progress we've made as an Association and look ahead to the opportunities our alumni have to make a positive impact on civil dialogue, leadership, and public service in our communities.

At this critical moment in our nation's history, many of you our fellow alumni are, as Theodore Roosevelt said, "in the arena", "who spends [yourself] in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if [you] fail, at least fails while daring greatly, so that [your] place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." This includes fellow alums Senator **Susan Collins (ME 1971)** and Senator **Cory Gardner (CO 1993)** who are each up for re-election in 2020, as well as Mayor **Pete Buttigieg (IN 2000)** who has vaulted into the top tier of presidential contenders in just a few short months. But just as important as these recognizable names are the hundreds of alumni across five decades of the Senate Youth Program who are leaders in their professions, in their communities, and in service to their nation.

Our alumni's dedication to leadership and service is why I've been proud as USSYAA President to work with our Board to introduce the Early Career Public Service Recognition, to reward the contributions of alumni 35 and younger who have chosen to work full-time in the nonprofit, military, or public sectors. Over the past two years we have recognized nearly two dozen of these outstanding young alumni, and we're looking for more. Please contact awards@ussyaa.org if you know an alum who should be recognized in 2020.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are already excited about Alumni Weekend 2020, which will include our biennial Board elections and a preview of new networking and communication services we've been working on. And at our Awards Dinner, we're very excited to recognize Mr. George Irish, Eastern Director of the Hearst Foundations with the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award. Those of you who have attended an alumni event at the Hearst Tower in New York City know his longstanding friendship and dedication to Senate Youth and alumni. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 7th, 2020 and lend your voice, your vote, your mentorship, and your fellowship to what promises to be a great Alumni Weekend!

In Service,

Andrew Bradley (IN 1996)
USSYAA President 2018-2020

Regional Alumni Events

Ben Sorkin (NY 2016) and **Catherine Zhang (PA 2015)** hosted a reunion events in New York City at the Hearst Tower and another that was timed with Harvard's accepted student weekend events. Of the Boston area event, Ben says:

The reunion was such a success! We had a great turnout and it seemed that everyone enjoyed the chance to be in fellowship with other alumni. We did our classic introductions and favorite USSYP memory icebreaker, and everyone brought up something new and exciting about their time in Washington for all of us to reminisce about. There was an especially high turnout of 2019 alumni, and we had a lot of alumni come from across Boston/New England and not just Harvard (Brown, BC, Mount Holyoke, UMass Amherst).



Alumni Weekend 2019 in Review

On Saturday March 2, alumni returned 'home' to the Mayflower Hotel and continued our annual reunion tradition of joining together to celebrate USSYP's longstanding mission of education, leadership, and public service. In addition to our Annual Meeting and mentorship tables, Alumni Weekend 2019 was highlighted by two very special awards recipients of USSYAA's premier public service awards – Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle who received the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award, and our own USSYAA Executive Director **Mike Sundermeyer (MO 1969)** who received the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award.



For the first time in recent memory, all of the Alumni Weekend activities took place on a single Saturday, which made for a full day of learning, sharing, and networking. The Annual Meeting included a presentation of Civic Duty, a civic engagement and education initiative for students co-founded by alums **Steven Higgins (AL 2016)**, **Adam Kozloski (FL 2016)** and **Alex Yom (IN 2016)**. In addition to a robust discussion of interest in building the Association's capacity to provide communication and networking for alumni, the meeting also recognized the service of Immediate Past President Colonel (USA, Ret) **Michael Gonzales (NM 1973)**.

As in years past, dozens of alumni joined the annual tradition of participating in Mentoring Tables for the incoming Senate Youth delegates, sharing lessons from careers in law, business, engineering, military, government, non-profit and other fields. As always, we are grateful to the Hearst Foundations for welcoming us each year to this very special event.

The annual dinner highlighted leadership and public service of our own alumni, in addition to honoring the recipients of USSYAA's premier public service awards.

For the second year, young professional alumni working in all levels of federal, state, and local government were recognized, along with their peers in the non-profit sector, with Early Career Public Service Awards. In 2019, we added two new recipients of this recognition: **Zhan Okuda-Lim (NV 2010)** who serves as Director of Policy & Analytical Leadership at The Public Education Foundation; and the Hon. **Dennis "Denny" Ruprecht (NH 2017)** who was elected as a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 2018.

We will continue to support and encourage those young alumni who are living out the mission of USSYAP. If you know young alumni who are working in a public service field, please submit your nominations to awards@ussyaa.org.

For the first time ever, we awarded two recipients of the Rosalie Wynn & George Randolph Hearst, Sr. Alumni Scholarship for alumni graduate studies.

James Brown (CO 2008) was overseas in Singapore and could not attend but received a scholarship for his Master of Business Administration studies at INSEAD.

Dallas McCash (TN 2015) was recognized for his Master of Accountancy studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and was presented his scholarship by **Chandini Bachman (AZ 1970)** who in turn was presented with a special plaque “for a lifetime of service and friendship” to members of the alumni family.



Michael S. Sundermeyer (MO 1969), Partner at Williams & Connolly LLP and Executive Director of the USSYAA, was recognized for his decades of service to the association with The James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award. Mike was chosen for this honor unanimously by the Board for helping to shepherd the association from its inception and providing wise advice and counsel not just to the organization but to countless alumni over the years. Mike provided a master class to the audience about the value of civil dialogue in a democracy and personalized the 50-year history of the Senate Youth program and the fellow alumni who helped create the association we’ve come to love.

Former Majority Leader of the United States Senate Thomas “Tom” A. Daschle was awarded the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award. Since leaving the Senate, Tom (as he insisted we call him) co-founded the Bipartisan Policy Center and regaled the crowd with anecdotes of how leaders have managed to accomplish policy for the greater good when they leave behind partisan distinctions and put people first. Tom also brought the entire Daschle family including his wife Linda and multiple children and grandchildren who enjoyed getting to know our alumni.



The 2019 dinner at the Mayflower was a great success! As in previous years, special thanks to the expert event planning of **Bryce Carson (OH 2009)** as well as our annual photographer Mr. Don Tanguilig. We hope everyone had a great evening filled with excellent food and even better company!

Please save the date for Alumni Weekend 2020 on March 7th. We will again hold our annual meeting, mentoring tables, and annual dinner all on Saturday this year.

Treasurer’s Report

USSYAA operates on a cash basis and for the period January 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019, the year-to-date (“YTD”) expenses were \$37,654.10 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 18.23% as compared to the S & P 500 Index of 27.63% 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

This year, as you consider where to make charitable contributions, we ask you to consider donating to the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association. As an organization, we provide four main points of interaction for our alumni:

- Alumni reunion weekend and awards: During our annual reunion, coinciding with Washington Week for the incoming USSYP class, we host a number of events, including the announcement of the award winners for the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award, the James T. Malloy Alumni Service Award.
- Rosalie Wynn and William Randolph Hearst Sr Alumni Scholarship: Education and public service is what brought us all together, and we aim to use our wisely-invested resources to further educational pursuits of alumni.
- Reunion events: We encourage alumni to create reunion events whenever and wherever possible. Using our databases and contact tools, we are able to broadcast the message and rally alumni to attend. For students, we have been able to support the events with modest budgets for catering.
- Annual alumni newsletter: This newsletter is printed and sent to all 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.

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 Luningham (KS 2006)
Parliamentarian: Taylor Oster (NE 2012)
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 T.J. Clark (IL 2013)
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)

Want to Join the USSYAA Board?

Ladies and Gentlemen: My name is Colonel (USA, Ret) Michael R. Gonzales and as the Immediate Past President of the U.S. Alumni Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA), I am the Chairman of the Nominations Committee. The USSYAA is actively seeking nominations for Board Members and Regional Directors, to fill out our slate for 2020. Serving on the Board, or as a Regional Director, is a wonderful way of staying engaged in the USSYAA, a great venue to connect with our U.S. Senate Youth Program Alumni, and an opportunity to give back to a program, that means so much to all of us.

Positions available include: President – Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Liaison Officer, Parliamentarian, Communications Director, Technology Director, Alumni Programs Director and the Regional Directors for the Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern, Western and National Capital Regions. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail with your Name, Program Year and State, Telephone Number, E-Mail Address and the position that you would be interested in seeking, by December 20, 2019, or call me on my cell phone at (703) 599-5888, if you would like to discuss the duties of particular positions, or have any questions.

The deadline for nominations is December 20, 2019, so please ensure that you submit your information by that date.

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 1970

Chandini Bachman (AZ 1970) thanks you for the recognition of her lifetime of service and friendship to the USSYAA at 2019 Washington Weekend. In January, she participated in a day of Peace Run school visits in Madeira, Portugal. In April, she met many alumni at the NYC area alumni meeting at Hearst Tower. In June, Chandini and her siblings had a family reunion in Maui, Hawai'i, and then Chandini spent a week in Oahu researching the many bronze statues throughout Honolulu. She hopes to connect with alumni from Hawai'i. In Baltimore, Chandini celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace, leading young men of "Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood" in "Seven Minutes of World Peace." She also visited Chisinau, Moldova, where she gave a presentation about patriotism and how important it is to love your own country first as a foundation for becoming a world citizen.

Margo Jackson (DC 1970) continues to enjoy retirement by traveling extensively internationally and by spending time with five grandchildren (ages, 13, 13, 15, 17, and 20). In May, she took her 15-year-old granddaughter sightseeing in London. Margo then proceeded to Porto, Portugal where she joined friends to celebrate a birthday with an 11-night food-and-wine tour of Portuguese cities concluding in Lisbon. Next May, Margo will take her 17-year-old granddaughter sightseeing in Florence, Italy, before proceeding to Greece for a nine day food-and-wine tour. This summer her 39-year-old son, who she expected would never marry, married. They are now expecting the arrival of Margo's sixth grandchild on December 5. Margo's 44-year-old son's lymphoma has returned for the third time. After two initial rounds of chemotherapy, he will be receiving a bone marrow transplant on January 3 and will be forced to not work for up to a year while he recuperates.

Professor **Michael J. Churgin (NY 1970)** has written numerous works in the fields of criminal procedure, immigration, and mental health law. A magna cum laude graduate of Brown University, he obtained his law degree from Yale where he was an editor of the Yale Law Journal and active in the school's clinical program. At the University of Texas School of Law, Michael splits his teaching between traditional courses and the mental health clinic. He recently completed three years of service on the 13-member American Bar Association Commission on Immigration and remains on its advisory committee. Churgin served for a decade on the ABA Bar Admissions Committee and on the board of the Legal Aid Society of Central Texas. He has been a visiting fellow at three colleges in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Class of 1973

Rex Gale (NH 1973) retired from a career as a Human Resources consultant and HR Executive and now is entirely focused on the non-profit world. Since 2016 he has been the organizer of TEDxHiltonHead, an independently organized TED Event, offering programs including TEDxHiltonHead, TEDxHiltonHeadWomen, and TEDxYouth@HiltonHead. He also joined the Board of Directors of the Arrhythmia Alliance.

Joe Alfano (NJ 1973) had the distinct honor to be the first USAF Academy graduate selected as the Grand Marshall of the Magic Kingdom Parade at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida. They had an extremely rigorous selection process. At the casting call, Disney wanted a good-looking guy with a full head of dark hair and the personality to convey the charm and majesty of the Magic Kingdom—a Prince Charming sort of guy! 45 years ago, Joe marched in the same parade as a member of the USAF Academy Cadet Drum & Bugle Corps. Joe's wife, Betty, and daughter, Angela, were visiting Orlando with him for the Major League Soccer All-Star game, where Angela is the Director of Corporate Communications.

Colonel (USA, Ret) **Michael R. Gonzales (NM 1973)** has been very busy this year, as the President and CEO of Three Towers Strategic Consulting (TTSC), a consulting firm located in the National Capital Region, representing government and industry clients in defense and homeland security strategy and technology arenas. TTSC has over 60 retired General / Flag Officers, Members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and other senior military leaders and civilians on its team, and is working on security initiatives in the United States, Germany, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Mexico. Mike and his wife, Christine, are the proud parents of two children, Gabrielle, who is a Senior at the Catholic University of America, in Washington, DC, and Michael, II, who is a Sophomore, at the University of Maryland, at College Park, MD.

Class of 1975

Rob Lawrence (LA 1975) retired after 29+ years at the US Environmental Protection Agency regional office in Dallas, TX. For the last 16 years, he was the Senior Policy Advisor for Energy Issues. From 1980 to 1990, Rob worked for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. He earned BS and MPA degrees from Louisiana State University in '79 and '81.

Class of 1978

Wyman Winbush (FL 1978) has been working at IBM for 30 years. He is a Summit Program Manager, where he is a trainer/adviser in IBM's software sales training program. Before that, he was a Captain in the Navy with 30 years of combined active and reserve service. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (BS, 1982) and Jacksonville University (MBA, 1989). Wyman previously served on the District Board of Trustees for Florida State College at Jacksonville and the board of Jacksonville Electric Authority. He is currently serving on the Business Advisory Council of the Coggin College of Business and the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida. He has been a lay minister at his church for 20 years. Wyman and his wife, Rosemary, have been married for 30 years and have three children.

David Stebenne (MD 1978) wrote two articles that were published in the last year: "The Johnson Amendment and Religious Freedom of Speech," *Columbus (Ohio) Bar Lawyers Quarterly* (Winter 2018): 44-45; and "Is American Democracy Endangered?" *Drake University Law Journal*, Vol. 66, No. 4 (Fourth Quarter 2018): 919-50.

Class of 1979

Tom Lee (TN 1979) has been named Member-in-Charge of the Nashville office of Frost Brown Todd LLC, one of the nation's 150 largest law firms. A Nashville native and Order of the Coif graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, Tom is also the founding principal of CivicPoint LLC, the government relations arm of Frost Brown Todd. Tom was recently appointed by the Speaker of the Tennessee House to a four-year term on the Tennessee Sports Gaming Advisory Council, the regulatory body writing the rules implementing Tennessee's new sports gaming law. Tom lives and works in Nashville with Laurie Lee, his spouse of 30 years. Their daughter, Virginia, is a sophomore at East Tennessee State University.

David Shanet Clark, M.Ed. (WV 1979) attended the 49th Annual Marshall University Memorial Service for the November 14, 1970 plane crash which took the lives of 75 Marshall football players, staff and civic leaders. His 97-year-old father, World War II veteran Lt. David Sheffer Clark M.D., was recognized as a first responder to the disaster site. They met with Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert, Huntington Mayor Steve Williams and West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner at the reception sponsored by Marshall Student Senate.

Class of 1983

Cori Ulrich (DODEA 1983) is working in Dallas as the Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at RealPage, Inc., a provider of software services to the real estate industry. She has been there for four years.

Class of 1988

Gordon Hendry (IN 1988) resigned from the volunteer position on the Indiana State Board of Education, which oversees K-12 education. He served on this bipartisan board for nearly six years as a Governor's appointee. He is most proud of his proposal to create the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship - passed into law in 2016 - that awards 200 \$30,000 scholarships each year to high school students to enter the teaching profession.

Willie J. Epps, Jr. (MO 1988), a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Missouri, will begin his LL.M coursework this spring at Duke Law School. At Duke Law's Master of Judicial Studies Program, judges learn the analytical skills and research approaches necessary for studying judicial institutions and apply those skills to studies of domestic and international judicial institutions, common and emerging legal issues, general judicial practices, and judicial reform efforts.

Tim Riffe (VA 1988) is a Principal in the Washington, D.C., office of Fish & Richardson. His practice emphasizes complex patent litigation in district courts and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) and post-grant proceedings before the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB). Tim also advises clients in strategic patent counseling and prosecution. At the PTAB, Tim has appeared in approximately 150 proceedings for both patent owners and petitioners across a multitude of technology areas. Tim has received numerous accolades regarding his legal work, including, being named to IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals for the past four years. Tim lives with his wife, Lisette, and step-daughter Caitlyn in Oakton VA. He also has a son, Davis. In his spare time, Tim enjoys biking, working out, and playing blackjack.

Class of 1989

Brian Kamoie (PA 1989) has been appointed as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Distinguished Chair of Leadership in the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He will focus on joint training, homeland security policy, and emergency management, with an emphasis on defense support to civilian authorities and ethical crisis leadership. Prior to this role, he served at the Federal Emergency Management Agency in appointed and career executive positions. He would love to connect with other alumni on LinkedIn, Twitter, or Instagram.

Brennan Price (TN 1989) is Director of Regulatory Affairs in the Washington, DC, office of Inmarsat. He has been involved in the field of radio spectrum management since 2008, and just concluded attending his third World Radiocommunication Conference, a quadrennial multinational conference at which the treaty governing the use of the radio spectrum is modified. Brennan has been married to his law school classmate Ericka Lenz since 2008, and they have two daughters, Ellagrace (age 7) and Rosemarie (age 2). The family lives in Vienna, Virginia.

Class of 1992

Kimberly Hamlin, PhD (NY 1992) has just completed her second book, the biography of the suffragist who charmed her way inside the Wilson White House and steered the 19th Amendment through Congress, *Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of Helen Hamilton Gardener* (W.W. Norton, March 2020).

Class of 1995

Robert Knodell (MO 1995) now serves as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Mike Parson of Missouri.

Kathryn Royster (TN 1995), after several years working as marketing director for a real estate industry startup, has accepted a position as a digital content strategist in the College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt University. In the new role, she leads digital content strategy and manages social media for the College, and she guides academic departments in forming their own communications strategies.

Class of 1996

Callie Whitfield Babbitt (FL 1996) received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to carry out sustainability research in Croatia. The research focuses on environmental challenges of tourism along Croatia's Adriatic coast, specifically issues surrounding waste from the food and hospitality sectors. The research was carried out from August to December 2019, after which Callie returned to her position as Associate Professor of Sustainability in the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Andrew Bradley (IN 1996) took a new job as State Network Director with National Skills Coalition, where he is launching a network of a planned 30 state advocacy coalitions working to secure state policy victories on workforce and skills training, economic opportunity, and equity for low-income adults and underserved populations. Andrew and his wife Julie moved from their native Indianapolis to Washington DC in 2019 and are eager to connect with any alumni living or visiting the area.

Class of 1997

Kevin Bruce (LA 1997) is the Director of Government and Public Affairs for Fieldwood Energy LLC, a private exploration and production company and one of the largest producers of oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico. Prior to joining Fieldwood, Kevin worked for America's Natural Gas Alliance and Encana Oil and Gas after practicing law at Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University (2001) and Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center (2007). He is an active member of a number of boards and associations and lives in Houston with his wife, Susan, and their four children, Caroline (6), Sutton (4), William (2), and Rex (1). He spends a lot of time in DC and would enjoy reconnecting with USSYP and its alumni.

Class of 1999

Paul Musgrave (IN 1999) is currently an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow working on Capitol Hill. He has published several articles in scholarly journals and in popular outlets like The Washington Post and Foreign Policy. Next year, he will return to his normal job in Amherst, Mass., as an assistant professor of political science specializing in U.S. foreign policy and international relations.

Class of 2000

Rachel Lowe (OR 2000) gained a new family member, Andrew, who was born in November 2018, and in June, Rachel started a new role with the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 in Denver.

Class of 2001

Matt Chingos (NY 2001) moved to Washington, DC, in 2011 to take a job at the Brookings Institution. He now directs the Urban Institute's Center on Education Data and Policy, which provides non-partisan data and analysis to support education policymaking. With his wife, Abigail, Matt has two daughters, Alethea (6) and Caroline (3). By coincidence, in 2017 they lived in the same 20-unit apartment building as his USSYP 2001 roommate, Joe Fairbanks (OK).

Class of 2002

Tim Nikolai (DODEA 2002) lives near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with his wife and two children. He is a Senior Community Impact Director at the American Heart Association where he works on a number of projects including local policy changes that can enhance and support health.

Cezary Podkul (IL 2002) joined the Wall Street Journal in 2017 as a reporter on the paper's financial investigations team, based in New York. He enjoys being able to dig deep and focus on long-term projects. Cezary's favorite stories to pursue are those that hold the powerful to account and serve the public interest. He is always happy to connect with alumni -- if you have a story idea, please get in touch.

Class of 2004

Marc Langston (KS 2004) is nearly complete with the first season of his YouTube channel, The History Hat, which features the history of the Dupont Circle neighborhood in Washington, D.C. We were all once guests of this neighborhood during our stay at the Mayflower hotel. Check out one of the episodes today at thehistoryhat.com.

Class of 2005

Will Haun (CT 2005) joined The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty as Counsel this past fall, where he focuses on appellate and Supreme Court litigation related to religious exercise. This work compliments the appellate and Supreme Court litigation experience he had at Shearman & Sterling—including this past summer, where an opinion joined by nine Ninth Circuit judges quoted, six times, a brief he wrote analyzing a First Amendment doctrine. He continues to write on law and policy, with an essay on religious exercise and the common good appearing in the winter issue of *National Affairs*, and a blog post featuring one of his Supreme Court *amicus* briefs appearing at *National Review Online*. This past summer, Will and his family were excited to move into their first, brand-new, house, in Millersville, Maryland.

In 2018, **Thomas Leeper (MN 2005)** left his position as Associate Professor in Political Behaviour at the London School of Economics to join Facebook's Core Data Science Team as a Research Scientist. He is supporting Facebook's efforts around Community Integrity. Meanwhile with his wife, Heather, Thomas welcomed their daughter, Adelaide, into the world in January 2019, and they are enjoying the challenging, sleep-destroying experience of raising a small human.

Jamarr Brown (SC 2005) was elected President of the Black Austin Democrats, leading the largest Black Democratic organization in Travis County. Also, he was hired as the National Training Director for a major presidential campaign.

Class of 2006

Chanda Choun (CT 2006) works as a senior technical consultant and recently started a new cybersecurity solutions small business that will majority employ workers in America's economically underutilized areas. He is additionally a local 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) completed a clerkship with Judge Elizabeth L. Branch on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and joined Alston & Bird as an attorney in the Litigation and Trial Practice group. Katie Jo resides in Atlanta with her husband Justin, who is a research faculty member at Georgia State University.

Class of 2008

Monica Cutler (ID 2008) finished her MPA program at the University of Colorado Denver in May 2018, graduating with honors and receiving the top student award in the School of Public Affairs for her engagement during her time as a student. In July 2019, Monica and her partner Jon purchased their first home in Denver, Colorado, and Monica continues to work for her alma mater as a digital communicator in the Office of Advancement at CU Denver.

Jonathan Gates (OR 2008) has started a new job as Oregon Communications and Engagement Manager with Climate Solutions, a Pacific Northwest based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. He resides in Portland, Oregon.

Jessica Kaplan (VT 2008) recently moved to Boston, Massachusetts following the completion of her MBA and MPA at The University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and Ford School of Public Policy, respectively. Jessica is an Investment Director for Endowments & Foundations at Cambridge Associates. She would love to connect with any USSYP alums in the Boston area.

Class of 2009

Ryan Gavin (ME 2009) and **Erica Wozniak (MI 2009)** were engaged at the Mayflower on alumni weekend in 2019. Erica graduated with a degree in mathematics from the University of Connecticut in 2011 and a masters in biostatistics from the Duke University School of Medicine in 2014. Erica worked as a biostatistician at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee before moving to Maine, where she's now a statistical programmer at the pharmaceutical analytics startup RxAnte, Inc. She enjoys bad mystery novels, gardening, and maintains a legendary affinity for adult onesies.

Ryan attended the University of Maine and the New England School of Communications before launching a career in broadcasting. Since 2009, Ryan has programmed radio stations and hosted shows in twelve states and Canada, including Top 40 and Country stations in New England and on the Gulf Coast. This summer, Ryan started Maine Vibe, a diversified media company focusing on content branding and program consulting for digital properties across the US. Off air, he can usually be found watching old movies, recording podcasts, and fighting with boomers in the comments.

Vince Tennant (WV 2009) graduated from Fordham Law, receiving the Archibald R. Murray Public Service Award. He passed the July 2019 New York Bar Examination and joined Nixon Peabody LLP's New York City office in September. He is in the corporate practice group, focusing on private equity and investment funds clients. He has represented two pro bono clients in filing for permanent resident immigration status, one under the Violence Against Women Act.

Class of 2011

D'Arcy Williams (DC 2011) started a MPhil in Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, as a Gates-Cambridge Scholar. He is focusing on global health and development policy in the context of universal health coverage.

Khayree Duckett (IA 2011) began serving as the Government Affairs Director for the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors.

Chase Blasi (KS 2011) has been promoted to Chief of Staff for Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle. He previously served as her Legislative Director since 2017. Senator Wagle is also a candidate for United States Senate to replace retiring US Senator Pat Roberts.

Braydon Jones (TX 2011) moved from Austin, Texas, to Washington, DC, to begin the evening program at Georgetown Law this September. He continues to work for the Ben Barnes Group, a governmental affairs consulting firm in DC.

Class of 2012

Matt Binder (IN 2012) graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. He recently moved to Chicago and began work as an associate at Sidley Austin LLP in September.

Scott Syroka (IA 2012) was elected to the Johnston, Iowa City Council on November 5, 2019. He welcomes connecting with other alumni if they're ever in the Des Moines area.

Kristina Pedersen (KS 2012) has started her MFA in Studio Arts at Concordia University in Montreal.

Class of 2013

Jacob Podell (MI 2013) will be working as a clerk for the Environmental Law Institute for the summer.

Gillian McBride (WI 2013) is a Legislative Assistant to Rep. Jimmy Anderson and Rep. Daniel Riemer in the Wisconsin State Legislature. She was also selected for a fellowship with the Wisconsin chapter of the New Leaders Council.

Julian Pecora (WV 2013) is a third year law student at West Virginia University College of Law. During law school, he was a summer clerk for the Honorable Judge Aloj in the Northern District of West Virginia. He was a summer associate at Frost Brown Todd and won best brief at the 4th Circuit Regional Moot Court Competition. Julian is externing at the United States Attorney's office in the Northern District of West Virginia, working on Supreme Court Litigation in the Jones Day West Virginia University Supreme Court Clinic. After the bar exam, he will be starting a career in civil defense litigation at Farrell White Legg in Huntington, WV.

Class of 2014

In May, **Adam Williams (AR 2014)** graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in International Relations and a minor in Psychology from Hendrix College in Arkansas. After graduation he worked for a couple of months as an intern at McLarty Consulting, a political consultancy firm in Little Rock. He is now currently working as a field organizer for Vice President Joe Biden's campaign in Iowa.

Jonathan Mumby's (CT 2014) father suffered from a heart attack. If emergency response time was more efficient, his father may have been able to receive medical attention sooner. This experience led him to develop a solution that will enhance emergency response time. Jonathan is the founder of Munius Technology which stand for Municipality and Us. The solution is to integrate controlled traffic intersections with IoT devices that streamline emergency gps navigation which yields emergency vehicles green light priority autonomously using machine learning.

Oxford University Press is publishing a volume co-edited by **Caroline Tervo (NC 2014)** and Prof. Theda Skocpol at Harvard University in January of 2020.

Priscilla Guo (NY 2014) is a current Schwarzman Scholar in Beijing, China at Tsinghua University, pursuing a Masters in Global Affairs. She is presiding over the inaugural Schwarzman Technology Summit, bringing together international leaders to create a global dialogue on artificial intelligence and its impact on society. Recently, she completed a Master in the Social Science of the Internet at Oxford University, under a Clarendon Scholarship. Her dissertation on deepfakes at Oxford has been well received by policymakers and experts in the European Union. Additionally, her undergraduate thesis at Harvard on algorithmic criminal justice reform is being used by civil liberties advocates across the United States.

Class of 2015

Paige Morrison (DE 2015) moved to Mongolia in May with the Peace Corps and has been teaching English in Uvs province since August.

Will DiGravio (MA 2015) is currently a Keasbey Scholar at the University of Cambridge, pursuing an M.Phil. in Film & Screen Studies. In 2019 he graduated *summa cum laude* from Middlebury College where he served as editor in chief of the student newspaper.

Robert Pickering (MS 2015) continues his education to begin a career as an Air Force physician at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD, after graduating in May from the University of Mississippi with BA's in Biochemistry and Public Policy Leadership.

Justin Shapiro (NY 2015) was an intern at the United Nations in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and an intern with the State Department at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations during the tenure of Ambassador Nikki Haley after graduating from Johns Hopkins University. This past summer Justin was the research assistant to the editor-in-chief of *National Review*, Rich Lowry, working with him on his latest book, *The Case for Nationalism*. Justin is currently getting a Master's degree in international relations at Columbia University and will be graduating this spring.

Catherine Zhang (PA 2015) graduated from Harvard University in May 2019, and moved to Taichung, Taiwan in August to begin teaching English at an elementary school through the Fulbright program. She will be in Taiwan for a year and would love to know if there are USSYP alumni either in Taiwan or if anybody has connections in Taiwan.

Gerald Fraas (SD 2015) was elected, in August, to serve as the Vice President of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity. (William Hearst is one of the fraternity's more notable alumni).

Class of 2016

Andrew Figueiredo (KS 2016) started as a 1L at the University of Pennsylvania Law School this year.

Ellie McDonald (UT 2016) spent 18 months as a missionary for the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Paris, France. She is half-way through her degree in International Studies and Economics, as well as half-way through Air Force ROTC training. She plans on following in the footsteps of her Military Mentor Lt. Col Breezy Long in becoming an Air Force Intelligence Officer.

Class of 2017

Meena Venkataramanan (AZ 2017) spent the summer at the POLITICO Journalism Institute and doing independent immigration and border journalism fieldwork in her home state of Arizona.

Class of 2018

Morgan Edwards (MD 2018) is a sophomore at Bowdoin College where he plays on the varsity basketball team. He was recently recognized as a Sarah and James Bowdoin Scholar -- awarded to those in the top 20% of their graduating class. He spent last summer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, doing basketball peacebuilding and reconciliation work to address sectarian divisions between Catholics and Protestants. He is currently in the process of writing a book about his experiences growing up in Appalachia with the goal of publishing in 2020.

Cameron Gehlert (MO 2018) is in his second year at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. He wrote legislation to designate the Hellbender Salamander as the Official Endangered Species of Missouri, which was signed into law this summer. This summer he was an intern at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in the Watershed Protection Section. Cameron was accepted into the Westminster College Honors College, inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta honors society at Westminster, elected as president of the school's Global Development and Progress student organization. He is working with Westminster's admissions office's Student Foundation as the Junior Vice President of Events and Social Media.

Ely Osborne (WV 2018) worked for the WV Speaker for the House Roger Hanshaw, Senator Capito, and recently obtained an internship on the Trump Presidential Re-election Campaign.

Class of 2019

Ruben Banks (MS 2019) was selected as a Presidential Scholar in June and is currently attending the United States Air Force Academy, where he hopes to study legal studies with a minor in political science.

Caroline Roeder (MT 2019) is the Montana Future Farmers of America State President. She competed in the National FFA Food Science and Technology Career Development and received 1st place individually this November. She is now attending Montana State University pursuing a double major in Agriculture Business and Economics.

Jack Heinemann (NV 2019) announced a run for the school board in Reno, Nevada. If elected, he would be the youngest school board trustee at nineteen years old.

Abe Baker-Butler (NY 2019), co-founder of Students Against Nicotine, was invited to testify at a New York State Senate Joint Committee Hearing on the teen e-cigarette use epidemic and was quoted in the New York Daily News. He testified in favor of a variety of policy steps, including banning flavors, expanding prevention education, restricting e-cigarette marketing practices, and ensuring specific warnings and full disclosure of the chemical byproducts formed in vaping devices. Abe is also advocating at the city, county, and federal levels for similar e-cigarette restrictions.

Jack Brenneman (SD 2019) is a freshman in the Georgetown McDonough School of Business, studying Marketing and International Business.

Emmalyn Pykles (UT 2019) is in her first semester at Brigham Young University. After this semester, she will do a year of service for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She will be based in the Spanish-speaking community of Everett, Washington. Emmalyn leaves February 11th for language training/immersion for 6 weeks in Mexico.

Kyle-David Byrne (VA 2019) was accepted into The Pennsylvania State University, and was awarded a Nationally competitive, full ride Naval ROTC scholarship. As well, he has started a new business doing Aerial Photography for Commercial and Industrial applications.

Adam Pack (WV 2019) is a freshman at Georgetown University in the School of Foreign Service.

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

From the Editor's Desk

Again, it's been another wonderful year for alumni news! Thank you for your contribution. If you have ideas or would like to host an event, please reach out to any member of the board. If you're looking to reconnect with someone in the alumni news or you met during Washington Week, please feel free to reach out directly: communications_director@ussyaa.org. I would love to help you.

In the first quarter of 2020, I will be moving to New York, following my MBA studies at INSEAD. I would love to meet alumni in the area and look forward to hosting reunion events in the near future.