

SPEAKER BIOS

Extended bios can be found online at www.northpark.edu/symposium

Lauri Alpern, MUPP, is a leading sustainability strategist, a social venture advisor, and president of Open Door Advisors (ODA). ODA helps high impact entrepreneurial nonprofits and social ventures expertly plan and manage the triple bottom line of mission, money, and sustainability through strategy and organizational development, business planning, leadership coaching, and investment. Throughout her career, Lauri has led numerous nonprofit and social enterprise teams through growth and development strategies. Community collaboration and resource development are key to Lauri's work. She helped found the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she served as associate director.

Joy Aruguete, MA has served as the chief executive officer of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation for the past 19 years. She provides leadership in efforts to ensure effective policy, capacity and resources for affordable housing and community development in Chicago and nationally through her active engagement. She is an active Board member of the Chicago Rehab Network, and currently serves as board president. Joy also serves on the national Enterprise Community Partners Leadership Council; the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago's Community Investment Advisory Council; and the Board of the Chicago Community Land Trust. She received her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tony Banout, PhD, is vice president of institutional advancement at Interfaith Youth Core, leading the development program and managing relationships with the board of directors. Tony's decade of experience in nonprofit management and fundraising includes work in the fields of social services, civil rights and public health. Born to Egyptian parents and raised in New York, Tony received a PhD in Religion from the Divinity School at the University of Chicago; his dissertation focused on democracy and religious freedom. He is a graduate of the Washington Theological Union, where he completed a Master's in Theology, and also has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from St. John's University.

Randall K. Blakey, MATS, MS, has served as executive pastor of LaSalle Street Church on Chicago's Near North side since June 2011. At LaSalle,

Pastor Randall serves as Chief of Staff and shares the Pastoral Ministry responsibilities of the Pastoral Staff. Prior to arriving at LaSalle, he was a member of the Faith Community of St. Sabina, and he served as Director of Ministries and Pastoral Associate. Pastor Randall is also Executive Director of the Near North Unity Program. He has worked in the television industry for the last 25 years and has won many awards, including four Emmy awards for Television Photojournalism. His most memorable work was covering the release of Nelson Mandela from South African prison for CBS News.

Rev. Barb Bolsen has been with The Night Ministry for 16 years and currently serves as vice president for programs. Barb is a graduate of Northwestern University and Chicago Theological Seminary and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Before joining The Night Ministry, Barb spent 20 years as a health care journalist. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and Chicago Theological Seminary.

Peter Buffett, Emmy Award-winning musician, has an acclaimed career that spans more than 30 years as a professional composer. More recently, he has added philanthropist and author to describe his career. Born in Omaha, Neb., Peter began his career creating music for early MTV bumpers of the '80s, and the climactic crescendo in the memorable "Fire Dance" scene in 1990's Oscar winning film *Dances with Wolves*. He has released more than 16 records to date on his own imprints as well as Narada, Epic and Hollywood Records. As co-chairman of the NoVo Foundation, Peter helps guide the strategic plan that he and his wife Jennifer have implemented with a small, dedicated staff. The NoVo Foundation seeks to foster a transformation in global society from domination and exploitation to collaboration and partnership, empowering girls and women as the primary agents of change. Peter's inspiring *New York Times* Best-Selling book, *Life Is What You Make It*, was released in paperback in May 2011.

Jean Butzen is the president and founder of Mission + Strategy Consulting Inc., a firm specializing in nonprofit strategic re-structuring: mergers, partnerships, alliances and parent corporations. Jean has over 35 years in leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, most recently as president/CEO of Lakefront Supportive Housing which she grew from a start-up organization into a nationally-recognized supportive housing provider. Jean has won numerous awards in her career including the 2001 Leadership Greater Chicago Distinguished Fellow Award, and in 2004 was identified as one of the most

influential women in the Nonprofit Sector by the *Chicago Sun-Times* in their series *The 100 Most Influential Women in Chicago*. Jean has a BA from Antioch College, Yellow Springs, and a certificate in Business Administration from Kellogg School of Management Institute at Northwestern University.

Juan Calixto, MPA, is the vice president of external relations at Chicago Community Loan Fund, an organization that provides financing and technical assistance for community stabilization efforts that benefit low- to moderate-income neighborhoods throughout metropolitan Chicago. Juan has 25 years of nonprofit experience working in various leadership positions including development director for Mujeres Latinas en Acción, co-founder of Latinos in Development, member of the Cook County Board of Ethics and workshop instructor at Donors Forum. He is also owner and principal consultant of Ideation First, LLC; an adjunct faculty member at North Park University's School of Business and Nonprofit Management; a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE); and a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals where he received the President's Award for service to the field of philanthropy.

Janice Collier serves as director of member relations for Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC), a nonprofit civic leadership organization that creates lifelong partnerships and develops community awareness among leaders in the Chicago metropolitan area. In this role, she works closely with the members in the Leadership Fellows Association within LGC, which consists of graduates from the Fellows Program. Prior to joining LGC in 1986, she began her career in public and government affairs with the Amoco Corporation. Janice currently serves as vice chair of Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory Rising Leaders Council.

Charles Coustan, MBA, is the executive director of World Bicycle Relief (WBR) where he manages the marketing, fundraising, technology, and finance functions, and participates on the three member executive team that leads WBR. Prior to joining WBR in 2013, Charles had 15 years of experience in consumer marketing, product management and as an equity research analyst. Charles also has three years of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector as director of housing development at Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation in San Francisco. He holds a BA in Economics from The University of Michigan and an MBA from the Walter A. Haas School of Business at

the University of California at Berkeley.

Lucy Czyz, MBA, is currently a vice president and senior relationship manager in the Government & Institutional Banking Group at Fifth Third Bank in Chicago. Lucy has a specialized focus on the not-for-profit and education sector and develops banking relationships with private and public colleges and universities, private independent schools, school districts, cultural institutions and social service organizations. Lucy has over 20 years of banking experience and has focused on working with tax-exempt institutions for more than 15 years. Lucy holds a BS in Business Administration from Elmhurst College and an MBA from DePaul University.

John Davidoff is the founder and chief operating officer of Davidoff Communications, a national strategic planning and marketing communications consultancy. Founded in 2005, Davidoff Communications leads nonprofits, businesses and associations with its proprietary Mission-Driven™ branded methodology to increase mission impact, drive revenue and build meaningful relationships with members, donors, partners, sponsors and other stakeholders. Previously, John served as vice president for event marketing and sponsorship for DDB; senior vice president for marketing for General Growth Properties; senior vice president for sales and marketing for Omnicom's Radiate Group; and CEO of Entertainment Marketing, Inc. John is a regular contributor to *The NonProfit Times*, profiling leaders and characteristics of Mission-Driven organizations.

Michael S. Davidson, MS, is the senior program officer for The Chicago Community Trust in sustainable development. He leads grant making for community and regional planning organizations, focusing on the confluence of environmental, economic and social sustainability as the optimal framework for policy planning and development practice. Prior to joining The Trust, Michael was Midwest director for ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability USA, where he provided in-depth technical support and sustainability initiatives to 90 innovative Midwest member local governments. He is the founder of the Prairie State Local Government Sustainability Network and a founding member of the Sustainable Communities Division of the American Planning Association. Michael earned a graduate degree from DePaul University's School of Public Service and has authored and produced over 30 articles and technical reports on contemporary planning issues.

Bob Dean, MRP, is the deputy executive director for Local Planning with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Bob oversees CMAP's programs that provide assistance to local governments, including the recently initiated Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. Before holding this position, Bob was the project manager for GO TO 2040, the long-range comprehensive plan for the Chicago metropolitan area that was adopted in October 2010. Prior to coming to CMAP, he worked in transportation and land use planning for the City of Naperville and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. Bob holds a Master's degree in planning from Cornell University and is originally from the Philadelphia region.

Greg DiDomenico is president and CEO at Community Memorial Foundation (CMF), a private foundation with a focus on community health improvement, and whose geographic area includes 27 communities in western Cook and southeastern DuPage Counties in Illinois. Greg joined the CMF team as vice president in January 2009 after serving as executive director for a number of local nonprofits, including the Rich Port YMCA (now the Greater La Grange YMCA). Greg serves on a number of community boards and advisory committees, including the Illinois Gift of Adoption Board, the Arts Alliance Illinois Board, the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council and was past board president of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Greg's experience in philanthropy and with nonprofits is compatible with CMF's belief that the Foundation is in the business of making a difference in the community.

Aaron Dorfman is executive director of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP), a research and advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. NCRP works to ensure America's grantmakers are responsive to the needs of those with the least wealth, opportunity and power. Before NCRP, Aaron served for 15 years as a community organizer with two national organizing networks, spearheading grassroots campaigns to improve public education, expand public transportation for low-income residents and improve access to affordable housing. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Carleton College and a Master's degree in philanthropic studies from the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

Jonathan Eisler, MA, MBA, director of organizational consulting at Perspectives Ltd, is driven with a passion for assisting organizations and individuals in articulating and achieving the results that they desire. He

has over 9 years' experience in business administration and development, management and organizational consulting, training design/facilitation and coaching. At Perspectives, Jonathan's responsibilities include partnering with client/customer organizations to help identify leadership, talent and team issues that are negatively impacting organizational performance. Jonathan earned a Master of Arts degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MAIOP) from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a Management concentration from Morris Graduate School of Management and is certified as a Professional Behavioral Analyst (CPBA) through Target Training International.

Eric Flasck is a managing director at Expense Reduction Analysts and has over 15 years of consulting experience with a diverse group of mid-market companies and global organizations including: Dow Chemical, Motorola, Harley Davidson, Waste Management, Toyota, US Steel and Hewlett-Packard. Prior to his current position, Eric was a partner and owner of Advantage Performance Group, and managing director of the leadership team of Root Learning Inc., a global change-management consulting firm that helps organizations implement strategic and operational business initiatives.

Brendan Foster, MBA, has over 15 years of experience serving the Chicago nonprofit social services sector. He has established himself as an innovative leader in the areas of program design and development, fundraising, quality outcomes and operational compliance. Brendan has served on the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter—a state-of-the-art facility for homeless men and women in Chicago—for eight years and as a volunteer for over 10 years. Brendan earned a BA in Psychology from Clarke University and holds a MBA and a Master's of Nonprofit Administration (with distinction) from North Park University.

Malik Gillani, MNA, is the founding executive director of Silk Road Rising (SRR) and is a recognized leader in the creation of innovative arts programming that expands artistic access. Most notably, he developed SRR's model for creating online video plays (which are now being accessed across the globe), and also established an arts integrated education program, EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course). Malik earned a BA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., and in 2013 received his Master's in Non-profit Administration from North Park University.

Kay Sprinkel Grace, MA, principal of Transforming Philanthropy, LLC, provides workshops and consultation to local, regional, national and international organizations in case and board development, individual giving strategy, staff development and other issues related to leadership of the fund raising process. Kay was a 2013 recipient of the Henry A. Rosso Medal for lifetime achievement in ethical fundraising from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. She earned her BA in Communications-Journalism and MA in Education from Stanford University. Kay has received Stanford's highest award for volunteer service, the Gold Spike, and has written six books related to philanthropic practices and board engagement. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Czech Fundraising Institute and the governing board of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra.

Jeffreen Hayes, PhD, is the director of the Rebuild Foundation, a community organization created by Chicago native, artist, urban planner and *Wall Street Journal* 2012 Innovator of the Year Theaster Gates, Jr. Rebuild Foundation serves Chicago's South Side, and St. Louis's Hyde Park and Pagedale neighborhoods. Jeffreen was an Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow in African American Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art. She completed her doctoral studies in American Studies at the College of William and Mary, specializing in contemporary African American art, and visual and popular culture. Her cultural practice is merging art, culture, and community, in an effort to make art and culture more representative of our diverse society.

Ann Ownby Hicks, PhD, teaches a very complicated subject in the School of Business and Nonprofit Management at North Park University: accounting. But she does it in a way that helps students make sense out of complex information. Prior to joining North Park's faculty, Ann spent nearly 20 years in senior-level accounting and finance positions in real estate and education. This experience, combined with her passion for teaching and the relationships she is able to build with students, helps her communicate the possibilities that accounting holds for future careers. Through all these activities, Ann helps her students to discover accounting's possibilities for themselves, and to find a path for success following graduation.

Daniel White Hodge, PhD, is an expert in religion and popular culture, race, & Hip Hop studies. His first book, *Heaven Has A Ghetto: The Mis-*

siological Gospel & Theology of Tupac Amaru Shakur (2010), wrestles with the profane and sacred socio-theological messages within Tupac's life. His second book, *The Soul Of Hip Hop: Rimbs, Timbs, & A Cultural Theology* (2010), engages a new arena of theological studies by examining what Hip Hoppers espouse to be God and the quest for spirituality within the Hip Hop community. In addition to radio, print and online appearances, Daniel lectures regularly at universities across the country and is an assistant professor of Youth Ministry and director of The Center for Youth Ministry Studies at North Park University in Chicago. His unique perspective on hip hop and theology challenges his audiences to look beyond the "outer surface" and go into the deeper parts of the culture. You can follow him on Twitter @danwhitehodge. He also blogs at Dr. Hip Hop.

Mae Hong, AM, is the director of the Chicago office of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA), where she serves families throughout the Midwest in developing and implementing their giving programs and strategies through grantmaking, planning and facilitation. Mae has also been actively involved in RPA's leadership on the issue of diversity in philanthropy, particularly among families and individuals. She completed her graduate work in social service administration at The University of Chicago and prior to entering the nonprofit sector, she worked in the publishing industry for several years following her graduation from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Jim Kales, MPP, is chief executive officer of Aspire, an organization which helps more than 1,000 kids and adults with disabilities like autism and Down syndrome. Under Jim's leadership, Aspire's private fundraising has doubled, helped by a strong emphasis on corporate partnerships. Aspire has embraced social entrepreneurship and social media, launching its own coffee company, Aspire CoffeeWorks, in 2009. Aspire coffees are now sold in all Chicagoland Whole Foods stores and were featured nationally on the TODAY Show. Jim graduated summa cum laude from Bucknell University and received his Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

David Kam holds the distinction of being the first full time employee hired by The Nerderly, way back in March of 2004. Dave has been programming since 1985 and added website development to his repertoire in 1996. Prior to joining The Nerderly, Dave worked as a PICK developer at Infinitivity

with Nerderly co-founders Mike Derheim and Mike Schmidt. In 2011, Dave was promoted to Branch Manager of the Nerderly's Chicago office after co-founding the branch a year earlier. When not working, Dave is involved with mentoring students and getting them hooked on coding. He is currently involved with the Chicago chapter of Coder Dojo and is hoping to become a nonprofit this year!

Al Kamienski, PhD, is professor of finance and economics in the School of Business and Nonprofit Management at North Park University. Since earning his MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, Al has been involved in teaching, research and consulting. Al's research includes the financial performance of nonprofits, economics of education, charter schools and the evolution of the Chinese economy. For the past several years, he has taught Macroeconomics, Strategic Management, and Financial Modeling graduate courses in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Bengbu. He is a member of the American Educational Research Association and American Association for Education Finance and Policy.

Shia Kapos is a personality columnist and senior reporter on the nonprofits beat for *Crain's Chicago Business*. Her popular Takes Name column and blog feature the city's top executives talking about their work away from the office—including their philanthropic endeavors. She's profiled such notable names as U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Morningstar CEO Joe Mansueto and corporate and civic giants, including John Rogers Jr., Gigi Pritzker, Helen Zell and Gordon Segal. On the nonprofit beat, she studies 990 tax forms and reports on how those organizations make ends meet. Most recently she examined the rise in donor-advised funds in Chicago. Shia has been a Chicago journalist for more than 13 years, the last seven at Crain's. Prior to that, she was a human-interest reporter for *People* magazine and before that a general assignment reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Megan Kashner, MBA, is the founder and CEO of Benevolent, an organization with the goal of introducing a new perspective on the experiences of low-income Americans who have for too long been publicly denigrated. A self-described "Ticked-Off Social Worker," Megan has spent her career leading organizations and programs dedicated to bringing innovation to the nonprofit sector and to improving social service support for women and families living in poverty and at risk. She previously served as an

executive director for the Taproot Foundation and held direct service and leadership positions in many Chicago area social service agencies. Megan and Benevolent have been featured at the White House, at national conferences on philanthropy and entrepreneurship, on CNN Headline News, MSNBC, in *The New Yorker* and more. Megan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a Master's degree from University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Jody Kretzmann, PhD, is co-director of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute, a research project of the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. The ABCD Institute assists community building leaders across North America to conduct research, produce materials and to otherwise support community-based efforts to rediscover local capacities and to mobilize citizens' resources to solve problems. A much-traveled speaker and trainer, Jody brings more than three decades of community experience and study to his current position. He was a founding faculty member and director of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest Urban Studies Program, has been a community organizer in Chicago's West Side, and served as chair of the Neighborhood Planning Committee for Mayor Harold Washington. His educational background includes a BA from Princeton University (*Magna Cum Laude*); a MA in English Literature from the University of Virginia; and a PhD in Sociology and Urban Affairs from Northwestern University.

Catherine Marsh, EdD, is professor of Leadership and Management in the School of Business and Nonprofit Management at North Park University. In addition to her teaching and scholarship at North Park, Catherine plans and conducts seminars and workshops on diversity management, change management, conflict transformation and team building for organizations in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Her expertise stems from her experience working in the three sectors in five countries as well as urban and rural areas in the United States. Catherine has a BA from the University of California, an MBA from North Park University, and a Doctor of Education from Northern Illinois University.

Virginia Martinez, JD, is senior policy analyst for the Illinois Latino Family Commission, a non-partisan, independent state commission established to improve the opportunities and resources available to Latino families

throughout the state. In 1980, Virginia helped establish the Chicago Office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and served as the first Midwest Regional Counsel. In 1975 Virginia, along with Viola Armijo Rouse, became the first Latinas to be licensed to practice law in Illinois and was lead counsel in the historic redistricting cases of 1982 that created the first Latino wards and legislative districts. She has received numerous awards and recognition including *Today's Chicago Woman*, One Hundred Women Making a Difference in Chicago; Cook County State's Attorney El Humanitario Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Virginia also had the life-changing opportunity of participating in the 1995 UN Conference on Women in Beijing and is a frequent speaker on issues affecting Latinos, women and children.

Terry Mazany, MA, MBA, is president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, one of the nation's largest community foundations that annually benefits more than 1,000 not-for-profit organizations in metropolitan Chicago. Terry was selected as the sixth executive in The Chicago Community Trust's ninety-eight year history in 2004. In 2011, he served as the interim chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools, a district of more than 400,000 students and over 650 schools. In addition, Terry is a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Council on Foundations. He was also appointed by Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, to serve on the National Assessment Governing Board that oversees the National Assessment of Education Progress, known as our Nation's Report Card. Terry earned Master's degrees in Anthropology and Business Administration at the University of Arizona and a Master's in Education Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has also been awarded Honorary Doctorate degrees from DePaul University and Lewis University.

David McConnell is the founder and owner of McConnell Financial LLC, as well as the executive vice president and chief financial officer for One Hope United. In his 40 year career as an executive and financial professional in the not-for-profit industry, David has led or otherwise had a vital role in six institutional mergers in the Chicago, Boston and Dallas

areas. Previously, he was the chief financial officer at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and the senior vice president of administration and corporate services at the Gateway Foundation.

Tiffany McDowell, PhD, is the interim director of the Institute on Social Exclusion at the Adler School of Professional Psychology. Tiffany's passion for social justice and equity drives her work in ensuring that communities have shared power with public decision makers. Much of her work is focused on building capacity of community residents, organizations and other stakeholders to develop strategies that maximize the effectiveness of policy and systems change. Tiffany holds a PhD from The Ohio State University in Human Development and Family Science, specializing in couple and family therapy. She received an MS in Child and Family Studies from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio and a BS in Psychology from Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, La.

Andrew Micheli, executive director of the Arts & Business Council of Chicago, has helped shape the vision of his organization while adhering to the mission of strengthening nonprofit arts organizations by bringing resources and expertise to this sector. Andrew has been an active member of the arts community, as an actor, writer and administrator, appearing in over 40 productions and solo works in Chicago and New York. His play, "Train of Thought," was produced at American Theatre Company, where he was an active ensemble member for twelve years and served in all aspects of the theatre's operations and management. Andrew holds a BS in Marketing from Indiana University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia College. He has also taught in both the Fiction Department and the Arts Entertainment and Media Management Department at Columbia College.

Pepper Miller founded The Hunter-Miller Group, a leading edge market research and strategic planning firm in 1995. Since then, Pepper and her company have provided real vs. invented insights that help Fortune 500 companies effectively and positively connect with Black America so that they can have loyal customers and a positive impact on their bottom line. By blending her insights, experiences and passion from the book that she co-authored with the late Herb Kemp *What's Black About It?* (2006) and

her newest book, *Black Still Matters in Marketing* (2012), Pepper is able to help audiences think differently about Black America, and how they should approach this consumer group professionally and personally.

Mary Morten is the president of Morten Group, a consulting firm specializing in social change through skills development, public policy and advocacy. Morten Group's work includes organizational and resource development, trustee cultivation and film/video production. Morten Group clients include nonprofits, foundations and corporations in Illinois and across the country.

Lisa Brown Morton is the president and CEO of Nonprofit HR. Under her direction, Nonprofit HR has served some of the most prominent organizations in the country, including Amnesty International, Independent Sector, Greenpeace and NeighborWorks America. With more than 25 years of human resource management experience, working with nonprofits and for-profit organizations, Lisa and her firm have proven that if an organization can strengthen its internal HR capacity, it can better serve the community and those in need. Lisa brings these beliefs to every engagement and inspires nonprofit leaders to strengthen their most important asset: their people. Lisa's contributions go beyond her work in the local nonprofit community. In 2011, she was named a *Washington Business Journal's* Minority Business Leader Award honoree and in 2012, Washington *SmartCEO* magazine recognized Lisa as a 2012 Brava! Award winner. Lisa is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), a long-standing member of the Society for Human Resources Management, and serves on the board of directors of the DC Rape Crisis Center and the Prince Georges Cultural Arts Foundation.

Rev. Marilyn Pagán-Banks is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ (UCC) and currently serves as the executive director of A Just Harvest, an anti-hunger organization in Rogers Park committed to service, community, community organizing and economic development. She is also the founding senior pastor of Namasté United Church of Christ, a new church on the northwest side of Chicago. Marilyn is actively involved in issues of justice and calls people to action both within the church and in the community. She has served at the local and national level of the UCC and is currently co-chair of COREM, the Council on Racial and Ethnic Ministries. Marilyn is a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary and is currently

working on her Doctorate in Ministry at the Chicago Theological Seminary, where she was twice named Hispanic Scholar.

John Plunkett is the principal of Plan B Synergy, a consultancy assisting nonprofits with social entrepreneurship, mergers/acquisitions and turnaround management. Previously, John founded Harborquest, Inc. in 1970 and served as CEO until retiring at the end of 2013. He led the organization through three mergers and started six social enterprises. In 1992, John was inducted into the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, then sponsored by the LaSalle National Bank of Chicago, Arthur Andersen & Company and the University of Illinois.

Claude Robinson, MS, is executive vice president of external affairs & diversity at UCAN. Claude specializes in the personal development, education and motivation of youth and children. A staunch advocate for youth, Claude continually challenges adults to examine their perspectives about youth and diligently strives to build positive youth and adult partnerships. Claude has affiliations with the Chicago Community Development Advisory Council, United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, Chicago Committee on Urban Opportunity, Trinity United Church of Christ and Leadership Greater Chicago. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater where he successfully obtained a BA in Psychology. Claude obtained an MS in Counseling at Chicago State University.

John W. Rogers, Jr. is founder, chairman and chief investment officer of Ariel Investments, headquartered in Chicago. John founded Ariel Investments in 1983 to focus on undervalued small and medium-sized companies. Patience served as the cornerstone of a disciplined approach that still drives the firm today. John's passion for investing started when he was 12 years old when his father bought him stocks, instead of toys, for every birthday and Christmas. His interest grew while majoring in Economics at Princeton University where he played basketball under Hall of Fame coach Pete Carril. There, Carril's courtside lessons on teamwork profoundly shaped his views of entrepreneurship and investing. Beyond Ariel, John currently serves as a board member of the Exelon and McDonald's Corporations, is a trustee of the University of Chicago, chairs the board of the University of Chicago Laboratory School and is a director of the

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. He is regularly featured and quoted in a wide variety of broadcast and print publications and is a contributing columnist to *Forbes*.

Pier C. Rogers, PhD, has been the director of the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management and professor of Nonprofit Management at North Park University since 2007. Under her leadership, the Center has expanded programs, doubled sponsorships, broadened the network of professional faculty, and substantially increased the Center's visibility and impact on the nonprofit professionals served. Over the course of her career, Pier has held management positions in the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, at Associated Black Charities, at New York University, at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and at the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Welfare. She also held academic positions at the New School University in New York City, and at Yale's Divinity School and Program on Nonprofit Organizations. Pier currently serves on the boards of Chicago Women in Philanthropy, the Chicago Wellesley Club and the CBE Board of Advisors at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern. She previously served on the boards of the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council and ARNOVA, the international nonprofit research association.

Robin Schabes, MUPP, vice president of community strategies, is responsible for the strategic management of IFF's Community Strategies business unit. The Community Strategies team works with nonprofits, government, foundations and local stakeholders to deliver innovative solutions to address community development needs. Robin has over 25 years of experience working on community development initiatives and has held a variety of high-level management positions with the city governments of Chicago and Waukegan. Additionally, as a planning consultant, Robin has directed a wide-variety of community and economic development projects and programs, and has expertise in the areas of public-private partnerships, tax increment financing, community development financing programs, and project management. She holds a BA in Geography and Urban Studies from Northwestern University, and a Masters of Urban Planning and Policy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Additionally, Robin serves on the boards of directors for Landmarks Illinois and the Illinois Public Health Institute.

Doug Schenkelberg, MUPP, vice president of public policy at Donors Forum, directs the public policy and advocacy strategies and activities undertaken by Donors Forum, and takes the lead on implementing and advancing the organization's new strategic plan to advance Donors Forum's policy goals. Prior to joining Donors Forum in October 2013, Doug was director of advocacy and outreach at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Previous positions also include associate director of policy and advocacy at Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights and director of policy at the Lawyers Committee for Better Housing. He also serves on the board of directors for Illinois Partners for Human Service and on the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers Policy Works Steering Committee. Doug earned a BA from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa and a Master's of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Susy Schultz is the executive director of Community Media Workshop. With past experience as a managing editor, associate publisher, reporter and editorial writer, she is excited about her future and that of the industry. Susy teaches and takes digital classes at Columbia College Chicago, is readership director for *The Daily Journal* in Kankakee, and a freelance editor working with the Schuster Institute for Investigative Reporting at Brandeis University. She is fluent in Spanish and is also vice president of Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS), a national organization supporting the professional development of women in media.

Shannon Schuyler is a principal and PwC's Corporate Responsibility (CR) Leader. She is a member of PwC's Global CR Board and is an officer of the board of the PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc. Through her work, Shannon is proving that corporate responsibility is as critical an avenue for achieving growth as any other business investment. She oversees social and environmental initiatives that support PwC's broad sustainability commitments, helping to activate employee engagement, drive operational efficiencies, elevate stakeholder engagement and connectivity, and differentiate PwC's brand in the marketplace. In 2013, Shannon was named PR News' "CSR Professional of the Year" and "Female Executive of the Year" by the Stevie Awards for Women in Business.

Erma Tranter, MUPP, recently stepped down as president of Friends of the Parks, a city-wide parks advocacy organization. She is currently working with

the Mayan Health Initiative, a new nonprofit whose goal is to bring medical resources to villages in Guatemala. Under her leadership at Friends of the Parks, the organization preserved over 200 acres of lakefront land from private development and worked for the acquisition of nearly 800 acres of land for parks in Chicago. In 1994 she worked to launch the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, and since then has helped to create the Lincoln Park Conservancy, Friends of the Forest Preserves and the Chicago Park Network. Erma earned a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Policy in 1978 from the University of Illinois in Chicago and an undergraduate degree in languages from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Lori Vallelunga, PhD is the president and CEO of Bethel New Life, a community development organization that has worked to transform Chicago's West Side for thirty-five years. Since becoming Bethel's third President and CEO in May 2011, Lori has led Bethel through a significant transformation, re-aligning Bethel's organizational structure and programs to be more strategic and more focused, and restoring Bethel to financial viability. As part of this transformation, Bethel rebranded itself and moved away from state funding, reducing its dependency on such funding by more than 40 percent. Lori is a licensed clinical psychologist and held executive and senior leadership roles in social service and health care nonprofits prior to joining Bethel.

Molly Vanderloo, MBA, has a combined background in international and local humanitarian work as well as a decade of professional services. Molly was the leader of McGladrey's outsourcing services to the non-profit industry, and has prior experience in the CFO role. As the consultant behind Vanderloo Financial Services, she provides finance and accounting services to the non-profit industry. Molly has been actively involved with Heartland Human Care Services (Heartland Alliance affiliate) for the past 10 years and currently serves as chair of the Board of Directors. She has also served on the United Way's Adult Impact Panel, Financial Stability Panel, and the Health and Wellness Work Group. She earned a degree in finance at the University of Nebraska and an MBA from DePaul University.

Mark Warner, MBA, launched MDW Consulting in 2009, bringing more than 15 years of development experience to the firm. MDW Consulting focuses on capital campaigns, major giving and society member-

ship programs. Before this, Mark served as vice president of development at the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust and as a consultant with The Alford Group, serving a broad-range of client sectors including health care, religion, social service and the arts. His diverse project engagements included campaign feasibility studies, marketing research, campaign counsel and major gift programs. Mark gives back to the community as a board member of Strawdog Theatre Company, as a volunteer docent at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, and is now board president of the Association of Consultants to Nonprofits. Mark graduated from Albion College in with a BA in political science and received his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Eric Weinheimer, MBA, has been the president and CEO of The Cara Program, a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive training, job placement and support services to individuals who are homeless and struggling in poverty, since 1996. Under Eric's leadership, The Cara Program has created and secured over 4,000 transitional and permanent jobs for Cara graduates. Also, The Cara Program founded and established two leading social enterprises: Cleanslate Chicago and 180 Properties, a joint venture with Mercy Housing Lakefront. These programs generate revenue and provide employment opportunities and on-the-job training to individuals who have significant obstacles to employment, including recent incarceration. Eric was recently appointed by Governor Quinn to the Social Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Task Force. He serves on the advisory board for the Social Enterprise Initiative at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Eric earned a BS from Boston College and an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business where he was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service.

Natalie Weiss has a passion for improving educational outcomes for underserved students. As the executive director of Open Books, Natalie oversees a nonprofit social venture that provides literacy experiences for tens of thousands of readers each year through innovative instructional programs and creative capitalization of books. Her time with the Illinois Network of

Charter Schools and NewSchools Venture Fund offered insight into the urgent need to transform K-12 public education. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Economics and currently serves as board chairperson of Lighthouse Academies, a national nonprofit network of charter schools.

Linda Zager, MBA, is a business owner and director of business development and client management at Expense Reduction Analysts (ERA) in the Northern Illinois and Chicago area. At ERA, Linda works with executives at small to mid-size organizations to understand their strategies, challenges, and priorities and to determine if ERA Expense Management Consulting and Managed Services would add value and be a fit for each particular organization. Linda has 34 years of corporate and small to mid-size business experience including 28 years at Motorola Inc. where her responsibilities included finance, sales and quality management. She has a BS in Business Administration from Rutgers University and an MBA in Finance from Seton Hall University. Currently, Linda is on the board of directors of the River North Business Association, is active in various not-for-profit initiatives, and is also a member of the ESOP Association and CFO Alliance.

Steve Zimmerman, MBA, is the principal of Spectrum Nonprofit Services where he provides training and consulting in the areas of finance and strategy for community-based organizations, foundations and government agencies throughout the country. Steve is also co-author of the book, *Nonprofit Sustainability: Making Strategic Decisions for Financial Viability* (2010), with Jeanne Bell of CompassPoint and Jan Masaoka of Blue Avocado. The book highlights Spectrum's integrated approach to nonprofits which balances mission impact and financial viability. Steve also writes the finance and strategy column for Blue Avocado and contributes to *The Nonprofit Quarterly* and BoardSource. Prior to starting Spectrum, Steve was a projects director with CompassPoint Nonprofit Services. Steve's extensive nonprofit experience includes serving as a chief financial officer, development director and associate director at community-based nonprofits where he performed turnarounds resulting in increased financial sustainability and programmatic reach. He is a Certified Public Accountant and earned a BA from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from Yale University.