

1990s

Mark E. Bachmann, BA '91, Partner and Chief Client Officer at Marcus Thomas LLC, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Akron Community Foundation.



Laura B. Culp, MT '91, Partner at Sikich, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Akron Community Foundation.



Roger E. Gordon, BA '92, a freelance writer, had his 11th sports history book, "The Cleveland Browns All-Time All-Stars: The Best Players at Each Position for the Browns," published in 2022. Another book of local interest Gordon authored is "The Miracle of Richfield: The Story of the 1975-76 Cleveland Cavaliers," published in 2016. Gordon, whose books are available via online book sellers, is currently working on a book about a famous National Football League playoff game from 1974.

Christopher C. "Chris" Keppler, BA '91, MA '14, professor of practice in the School of Communication and General Manager of WZIP-FM, was named The University of Akron's institutional winner for the Mid-American Conference's 2023 Outstanding Faculty Award for Student Success. The award recognizes outstanding efforts of MAC faculty who support and develop students both inside and outside of the classroom. Keppler focusses on assisting with initiatives that help to build educational and social aspects of students' college experience, often helping with official and impromptu meetings with prospective students, serving as orator at commencement ceremonies, arranging



student trips to national conferences, or finding ways to build self-confidence in students involved with the radio station.

Christopher W. Kuhar, BS '97, was selected to receive The University of Akron's Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences (BCAS) Buchtel Award for Distinguished Alumni. Kuhar has demonstrated exceptional achievements in his career and is to be recognized for his outstanding contributions in the field of wildlife conservation. Kuhar has demonstrated dedication and leadership at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in providing excellent animal care, increasing positive conservation impact, creating impactful conservation educational opportunities, as well as growing sustainable techniques.



Richard M. Kurasz, MM '96, has been named the College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) Associate Dean at Western Illinois University effective July 1, 2023. Kurasz had been serving as Interim Associate Dean since August 2022.



Mary B. Outley Kelly, BSE '90, MSE '96, now leads Akron Public Schools as interim superintendent. Formerly the district's executive director of elementary education, Outley Kelly said she stepped up to fill the interim role because of her 32 years in Akron Public Schools. Outley Kelly will now be the second black woman to lead the school system.

Monica P. Vinay, BSA '92, BSA '92, has been named the new CFO for Visual Edge IT, Inc. (VEIT). Vinay will serve on the executive leadership team and drive the company's financial goals. VEIT specializes in managed IT services and security, cloud computing, and print/copy solutions for businesses across the U.S.



Gregory R. Yandek, BS '98, PhD '05, has been hired to lead the Energetic Materials Research and Training Center (EMRTC), a world-class research, development, and evaluation facility, at New Mexico Tech. The EMRTC is NMT's largest division, overseeing 116 highly experienced, specifically trained, and technically proficient employees who perform research, development, and testing of all types of energetic materials - from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to military munitions - and provides homeland security courses for first responders. Yandek started as EMRTC director May 1, 2023.



Austin B. Barnes, III, J.D. '90, M.T. '94, has been appointed general counsel by the National Tax Lien Association (NTLA). With Barnes' extensive legal acumen and a notable background in taxation, he becomes only the second general counsel in the NTLA's 27-year history.



Lloyd E. Hilton, B.A. '94, attended the hooding ceremony at the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education and received a doctorate in Organizational Change & Leadership this past May. Hilton was also inducted into Kappa Delta Pi for academic achievement.

Anup K. Kanodia, B.S. '98, married Rupal R. Shah in June 2023 in Columbus, Ohio. In July, images from their ceremony were published in a photo essay titled "A Wedding Like No Other" in the Columbus Dispatch. The four-day festivities included ceremonies, rituals, games, processions on horseback and dancing.



Jason M. Keith, B.S. '95, was named senior vice president and provost at Iowa State University. Keith will work with the faculty and university leaders in innovating the future of academic programs and advancing teaching, research and extension missions.



David G. Lautenschleger, A.A.S. '92, B.S. '92, B.S. '01, has been named chief of engineering for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD). Lautenschleger supervises all dams and reservoirs necessary for flood mitigation within the MWCD and its subdistricts. He also oversees ongoing construction projects and utility operations within the MWCD's network of parks and marinas in the Muskingum Watershed.



Michele C. Scott Taylor, B.A. '98, B.A. '98, B.A. '98, has been named chief executive officer of College Now Greater Cleveland, the largest nonprofit of its kind in the country, which aims to increase postsecondary educational attainment.



David Toth, M.S.E. '99, has been named superintendent for Orrville City Schools in Orrville, Ohio. Toth began his career as a special education teacher, then served in several administration roles including assistant principal, principal and finally superintendent for Crestwood Local Schools, where he spent 11 years.



Sharon A. Valente, Ph.D. '96, has been selected for a Partner Class as part of the 2024-2025 Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute. In this role, Valente will be contributing to advocate for those with disabilities. This contributes to the State of Tennessee's plans and goals from the Council on Developmental Disabilities, mainly the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act. Valente currently serves as the director of institutional effectiveness at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center.



Georgine Welo, B.A. '95, was elected on Nov.7, 2023, to her sixth term as the mayor of South Euclid, Ohio. Welo has served as president of the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association, vice chair of NOPEC, Board of Directors for the Greater Regional Transit Authority, currently serves on the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and continues to serve as a civilian ambassador to the country of Serbia.

