



2011



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## Forty Under 40 • 2011

**Brant Mackey,**  
General Manager,  
Springfield Business  
Journal



This is our 15th year of featuring 40 leaders who are under the age of 40, in the Springfield and surrounding business communities.

Each of these individuals received one or more nominations from our readers. This

year's selectees were chosen from a pool of more than 170 nominations. These individuals were selected based on their contributions to our local business community and the community in which they have chosen to reside. They represent, in part, the future of business in our community and in central Illinois. They have the ability and dedication to change and to preserve the face of our community landscape.

The selectees' career paths, educational background and community affiliations are varied. They represent the best and brightest from a wide range of occupations. You can

expect to hear more from and about these leaders in the years ahead. Congratulations to the 2011 selectees.

The program was established and is able to continue due to the commitment of local businesses that realize the importance of acknowledging these 40 individuals and supporting community business programs.

A special "thank you" to our sponsors: Security Bank and The University of Illinois Springfield MBA Program as sponsors of this program and for their commitment to the local business community.

In addition, we are honored to welcome

Susan J. Koch, Vice President and Chancellor for University of Illinois Springfield, to the community as our keynote speaker.

We appreciate your nominations as readers, and your individual daily contribution to recognizing and maintaining excellence in the business community.

—Brant Mackey, publisher,  
Springfield Business Journal

**Susan J. Koch,**  
Vice President /  
Chancellor,  
University of Illinois  
Springfield



Susan J. Koch, who has served in senior leadership roles at two public regional universities in the Midwest, has been selected to become the new permanent Vice President and Chancellor of the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS).

Koch is currently Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Northern Michigan University, where she has served since 2007. Before joining NMU, Koch was the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Northern Iowa.

University of Illinois President Michael J. Hogan called Koch a proven academic leader in announcing her appointment, effective July 1, subject to Board of Trustees approval.

"Dr. Koch's record reflects a proven appreciation for the value of a strong liberal arts education and a deep commitment to civic engagement. I couldn't be more pleased to have her joining our leadership team as we continue to advance the excellence of our Springfield campus and the entire University," Hogan said. "I'm particularly grateful to members of our UIS search advisory committee, led by Professor Tih-Fen Ting. They did an exceptional job in recruiting an outstanding

pool of candidates, and I appreciate their work and advice."

Koch said UIS has a strong reputation that she intends to uphold. "I was drawn to the position because of the passion for excellence that is so evident at the University of Illinois and among the faculty, staff and students at UIS," Koch said. "I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with President Mike Hogan, who is an outstanding leader in higher education.

"With its strong reputation as a public liberal arts university, UIS is providing the state of Illinois with graduates who have the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be productive contributors to and leaders of their communities," Koch said. "I'm excited about working to continue and enhance this very important tradition."

"We had a very strong, diverse, and highly competitive pool of applicants for the position," Ting said. "The search advisory committee is extremely pleased that we're able to get the person of Dr. Susan Koch's caliber as our next Chancellor. The committee worked very hard to reach such a successful outcome."

Koch will hold a tenured faculty position in the College of Education and Human Services at UIS. Koch's research and scholarship are in health education, with a focus on international health, conflict resolution and human rights. She is author of numerous scholarly and creative publications and was co-founder of the Global Health Corps, a field-based organization that provides public health services to underserved populations in the U.S. and abroad.

Of her career in teaching and university administration, Koch said: "I'm an educator first and my highest priority will be students." Koch is a native of South Dakota, where she earned a bachelor's degree in health/physical education/biology at Dakota State University. Her first job was as a high school teacher in Waterloo, Ia. She returned to college at the University of Northern Iowa and earned a master's degree and doctorate, both in health education. Koch joined the faculty at UNI in 1985 and moved into administration in 1995.

Northern Michigan University, located in Marquette, Mi., has an enrollment of about 9,300 with 1,200 employees and an annual operating budget of \$203 million. As provost and v.p.-academic affairs, Koch is second to the president in NMU's executive leadership and is responsible for management of the academic and student services operations. Among her accomplishments was a key role in developing and implementing the university's strategic plan, "Roadmap to 2015," and an initiative to fund innovation projects that support the plan.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to have worked with an outstanding president and extraordinary leadership team at NMU, and I am looking forward to both the challenges and opportunities at UIS," Koch said.

"My husband and I are delighted at the prospect of our move to Springfield. We're looking forward to immersing ourselves in Abraham Lincoln's hometown and in the activities of a university where public affairs is so central to what we contribute to the state of Illinois, the nation and the world," Koch

added. "Since my husband's profession is agribusiness, we're also delighted to be moving to the agriculture heartland of Illinois, and the home of the Illinois State Fair."

Koch and her husband Dennis are the parents of four adult children.

As vice president and chancellor of UIS, Koch will report to Hogan and will be responsible for the academic programs and operations of the Springfield campus. The University of Illinois at Springfield is one of three campuses, including Urbana-Champaign and Chicago, of the U of I.

It serves approximately 5,000 students in 44 undergraduate and graduate programs in four colleges, with 211 full-time faculty, 533 staff and an annual operating budget of \$73 million.

Koch will take the helm of the campus from Interim Vice President and Chancellor Harry Berman. A 35-year veteran member of the UIS faculty and administration and the former provost, Berman has served in the top campus leadership role in the interim since last September.

"I'm delighted that a colleague whom I'd gotten to know at national meetings has been selected as the next chancellor of UIS," said Berman. "I am confident that with Chancellor Koch in the leadership role the future of UIS is in good hands."

"Harry's legacy to this campus is outstanding, and in this nine-month interim period he is providing leadership continuity that sustains the forward progress of UIS," Hogan said. "I value his dedication, his advice and his friendship."

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## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** The Salsa Ambassador/ Motivational Speaker, Salsa 29 Productions
- **age:** 30
- **email:** julio@salsa29.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, Youtube
- **education:** Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Minor in Intercultural Communications
- **family:** Single
- **affiliations:** I visit the elderly at various nursing homes, kids at risk at either schools or juvenile detention centers, and centers for people with disabilities. I engage people who are displaced, marginalized or otherwise removed from participating in society; either because of their physical, mental, or emotional condition. Coalition to Promote Human Dignity & Diversity (01/2010—Present), Springfield Community Relations Commission (Vice-Chair) (03/2010—Present), Citizen's Club of Springfield (01/2009—Present), Carbondale Community Arts (08/2003—Present), National Image Inc., Central Illinois Chapter (08/2002—Present).



**Julio Barrenzuela**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** To not settle with what was easy. I wanted to change the status quo with Salsa 29 and challenge myself to market the intangible (That the purpose of me using Salsa is to tackle serious issues). It would have been too easy to turn Salsa 29 into just a dance studio.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The perk is that I set my hours and I set my limits. I decide what direction to take it and what things I want to be associated with.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** My first job was at the age of 7 when I still lived in Lima, Peru. My Grandfather got me a job working birthday parties with his friend who was a professional clown. I would dress up in Disney costumes. It was so much fun! One day I would be Mickey Mouse and another day I would be Donald Duck! It was a great job for a kid. But, I had to take early retirement at the age of nine when I came to America!
- **Favorite Superhero?** Donatello (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle)
- **"I dine out most often at..."** China Star on Sangamon Avenue.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Financial Marketing Director - Williamsville State Bank & Trust, a division of WSB Financial, Ltd.
- **age:** 37
- **email:** jbenanti@wsbt.net
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** Associates in History/Political Science, Currently working toward Bachelor's in History/Political Science at UIS
- **family:** Son (Michael) & Fiancé (Mike)
- **affiliations:** Exhibitor's Chair, Springfield Old Capital Art Fair; United Way - Community Fund Panelist; Habitat for Humanity - Steering Committee; Graduate of Leadership Springfield; Member of: YSPN, Capital Area Association of Realtors, Springfield Area Home Builders Association (Golfing Committee); Volunteer: UCP Land of Lincoln and Boys & Girls Club (past)



**Jennifer J. Benanti**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** My best business related decision was to move from the large corporate world to a much more community minded and focused business environment with Williamsville State Bank & Trust.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The best "perk" at WSB&T is that they encourage community involvement, and help in supporting the organizations that are important to their employees.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Cosmetics manager at the former Famous Barr (now Macy's)
- **Favorite Superhero?** Iron Man
- **"I dine out most often at..."** It really varies, but stay away from chains whenever possible, and try to support the local businesses.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Director of Human Resources & Legal Council, Tom Lange Company, Inc.
- **age:** 36
- **email:** sbeuning@tomlange.com
- **social networking:** LinkedIn
- **education:** J.D. - Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY (1999); B.A. - Univ. of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN (1996)
- **family:** Spouse - John Martin, Daughter - Lila Martin
- **affiliations:** IWIL Board of Directors, Springfield Ballet Company Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of Cent. IL Regional Leadership Council, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln Young Philanthropists Grant Committee 2010, ISBA High School Mock Trial Judge, Hoogland Center for the Arts 600 Donor Club, Dana Thomas House Foundation Member, Friends of the Sangamon Auditorium, Human Rights Campaign Federal Club Member, American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, The State Bar of California, Minnesota State Bar Association.



**Sarah L. Beuning**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Proposing a 401(k) plan for our company.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The Employee Stock Ownership Plan.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Teller at First State Bank, Sauk Centre, MN.
- **Favorite Superhero?** The Doctor from Doctor Who as played by David Tennant.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Ross Isaac.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Historic Site Manager - Old State Capitol, Lincoln Law Office, and Vachel Lindsay State Historic Sites. IL Historic Preservation Agency
- **age:** 34
- **email:** justin.blandford@illinois.gov
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** BA, History, Webster University; MA, History, in progress, University of Illinois Springfield
- **family:** Wife, Holly Rae, and daughter, Greta
- **affiliations:** Board Member, Downtown Springfield, Inc.; Board Member, Abraham Lincoln Association; Advisory Board Member, State Center for Policy and Leadership, University of Illinois Springfield; Dean's Advisory Council Member, College of Arts and Sciences, Webster University; Historic Preservation Fund Board Member, Community Foundation for Land of Lincoln



**Justin A. Blandford**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** My best decision has been to work with the understanding that the only thing that comes before history in "public history" is the public. Great tourism experiences are critical to our economy, and to deliver them we should work collaboratively to exceed the expectations of guests.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The best perk is the opportunity to meet people from all around the world who want to explore history education in Springfield. I meet someone new nearly every week who has traveled to Springfield from outside of the United States.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** When I was growing up I worked during the summertime on a farm. I picked up eggs three times a day and tended to a fairly large garden. These assignments helped me develop patience and a strong work ethic.
- **Favorite Superhero?** My mom bought me a Super Man outfit for Halloween when I was in First Grade, so he seemed to stand out from the rest.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Café Moxo.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Vice President / Financial Planning Specialist, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
- **age:** 34
- **email:** matt.broch@mssb.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** B.S. Agricultural Systems Management - University of Illinois, 1998
- **family:** Wife Nicole - married since 2004, daughter - Natalie
- **affiliations:** Springfield Young Professionals Network; Capital Area Officials Association; Greenview Civic Improvement Association - President (2003-2010), currently Vice President; Secretary of Greenview Masonic Lodge #653; Life Member / Event Director for Land of Lincoln Honor Flight; Member of Athens Methodist Church; Menard County Farm Bureau; Menard County Citizen of the Year 2007; Past member of Crimstoppers of Sangamon & Menard County



**Matt  
Broch**

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Becoming a financial advisor. I get to help people reach important milestones in their lives every day.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** My schedule is very flexible, and this allows me to spend time with my family and pursue my passions outside of work.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** I worked at a hog farm all throughout high school.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Superman

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Chili's. My wife and I had our first date there, so it's special to us.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Senior Vice President of Branch Administration, Marine Bank
- **age:** 37
- **email:** kdaughton@ibankmarine.com
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** John A. Logan College
- **family:** Husband, Patrick; Daughter, Kaillee (12); Son, Jonathan (8); Pets, Wrigley & Sophie
- **affiliations:** Past boards include Friends of Funshop Foundation (6 yrs.); PTO Board at St. Aloysius (6 yrs.); and Pre-Cana at St. Aloysius (3 yrs.). Leadership Springfield Graduate (Class of 2009). Current boards include Parish Finance Council and the Sports Booster Club both at St. Aloysius. In addition to volunteering at the church and school, I also enjoy volunteering time with M.E.R.C.Y. Communities and St. John's Breadline.



**Kim  
Daughton**

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Accepting a part time teller position when I first moved to Springfield. Growing up I always thought that I would be a teacher. However, once I started in the banking industry, I knew that was where I wanted to be. I always tell people that you have to do what you love and love what you do! My decision 17 years ago led me down that exact path.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** If I had to pick just one perk, I would say it is all of the great people that I get to meet. I grew up in Southern Illinois and moved to Springfield not knowing anyone. I have been very blessed to meet so many people in our community through my banking career. I love that my job allows me to interact with customers (and employees) on a daily basis. I have even developed some friendships that I know will last a life time!

• **What is the first job you ever had?** McDonalds

• **Favorite Superhero?** Wonder Woman!! She is one of the few superheroes with multiple super powers such as superhuman strength, flight, super-speed, and super-stamina. Juggling a full-time career and a busy family life requires a certain balance. Sometimes that balance is like having these super powers!

• **"I dine out most often at..."** My entire family loves Mexican food! Our favorite is Xochimilco!

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Jewelry Appraiser / Diamond Specialist, Denney Jewelers
- **age:** 31
- **email:** brian@denneyjewelers.com
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** Graduate Gemologist, Gemological Institute of America, BS University of Illinois, Urbana, Champaign
- **family:** Single
- **affiliations:** American Business Club, Rotary Westside



**Brian  
Denney**

• **What has been your best business related decision?** The relocation of our store from Jacksonville to Springfield. It has enabled us to increase our selection dramatically for our customers. We have been able to grow to have four full-time jewelers and nine additional designers, sales and support staff. It has also allowed us the ability to be true jewelry manufacturers. From design, casting, to the completed piece we have been able to bring everything in house.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** that our clients are celebrating important occasions or milestones in their life and we are able to be a part of that excitement and happiness.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** Boy Scout Camp Counselor for the Abraham Lincoln Council at Camp Bunn. The skills, ethics, and morals I learned there have carried with me throughout my life.

• **Favorite Superhero?** My favorite Superhero is anyone willing to give of their time and resources without expecting anything in return.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** The Brickhouse Westside. They run a first class operation.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Project Manager, GoWeb1
- **age:** 27
- **email:** lara@goweb1.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** Communication M.A., University of Illinois at Springfield
- **family:** Mark, husband
- **affiliations:** Young Philanthropists, Young Springfield Professional Network



**Lara  
Donovan**

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Trusting my gut when it came to choosing a different career path. Taking that leap of faith to make a change is scary but can be essential for your own growth, both personally and professionally.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Getting paid for using my creativity, and a flexible work schedule.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** I was a cashier at the Sangamon Avenue Schnucks from age 15-19. I still enjoy running into my former customers and coworkers around town. It was a great first job!

• **Favorite Superhero?** SUPERMAN, hands down.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Hunan (mmmm sushi). Oh and I can always go for the broiled cajun catfish at Fritz's; delicious.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** AVP - Lending, United Community Bank
- **age:** 30
- **email:** ddrennan@ucbbank.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter
- **education:** SHG, SIU-E
- **family:** Ron Drennan, Dad; Mary Ann Drennan, Mom; Sisters, Jennifer & Kate Drennan
- **affiliations:** SRRC - VP Board of Directors, KC 364, CAAR, Springfield Area Home Builders Association, ABC, Habitat for Humanity, Springfield Triathlon Club, Leadership Springfield - Class of 011



### David J. Drennan

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Making the decision to come to the bank and working my way up within a company where I know I have surrounded myself with people that will help me succeed at my career path and that will help me develop as a leader.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Meeting new people. Working for a community bank and being able to get involved with the community and helping customers with all their banking needs. The golf outings are also a plus.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** Working at a family business & Jack's (now ShopKo).

• **Favorite Superhero?** Dwight K. Schrute

• **"I dine out most often at..."** The Creek

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Project Manager, AT&T
- **age:** 36
- **email:** msaprill2u@att.net
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** MBA, Business from National-Louis University
- **family:** Husband, Phillip; Children: Dominique (17), Phillip, Jr. (9)
- **affiliations:** Powered Up Youth Inc., Founding Member & Board Member; Springfield Youth Football, Leadership Team Coordinator of Scholarship Funding & Volunteer Service; Lanphier H.S. PTO, Treasurer; Past Coordinator of Youth Leadership Programs through Toastmasters, Springfield School District 186; Past Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sangamon County; Toastmasters International, ALS, ACB



### Aprill Edwards

• **What has been your best business related decision?** I would definitely say leaving Chicagoland area to accept a Project Manager position with AT&T in Springfield. I've grown leaps and bounds professionally and personally since moving here 8 ½ years ago. In addition, my family as a whole has, as well. I've seen that same growth in my husband and children. I guess it's just something about Springfield.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Although my boss may not like this response, I'd say it's my ability to work remotely from home. I don't abuse this privilege, but it makes life a lot less stressful when I have sick children or something else going on.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** I was a cook at Church's Chicken.

• **Favorite Superhero?** She-Ra, the Princess of Power, for some reason. I keep reminding my children that I'm not She-Ra!!! They seem to believe I can do anything.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** I rarely do. But if I had to choose, I'd love to dine regularly at Red Lobster. (I love seafood and their biscuits!)

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Sales Operations Supervisor, H. D. Smith
- **age:** 39
- **email:** teggleston@hdsmith.com
- **social networking:** None (but I am known by friends and family to hijack my wife's Facebook account frequently)
- **education:** ISU, Normal, IL - B.S. in Speech Communications with minors in Psychology and Political Science; SHG High School; St. Aloysius Grade School
- **family:** Wife Debi (15 years, Sept. 1); daughter, Aili (11); son, Alex (8)
- **affiliations:** T-Ball/Coach Pitch Manager (since '04), YMCA and Southwest Springfield Baseball Assoc.; Springfield - Downtown Kiwanis (member since '94), several Club and District offices including Pres., Lt. Gov., District Chair positions, and District Secretary; YMCA member, volunteer & employee (since '90), Active with the Saturday Strikers Bowling League (Adaptive Physical Education program for adults and children); Christ the King Parish and School (since '04); SHG Alumni Association (board member since '04), Past Pres.; Chamber of Commerce Leadership Springfield Graduate ('99); Active participant in softball leagues, indoor soccer, triathlons and running road races.



### Tim Eggleston

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Accepting my first management position with AT&T back in 1996. It provided the foundation for a rewarding career with two distinguished companies. Several hiring decisions also come to mind. I have been fortunate to have surrounded myself with some very good people that have challenged me as much as I have challenged them throughout the years to move our companies and each other forward.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** H. D. Smith continues to provide an annual Holiday bonus to each employee. Although you save throughout the year, it always seems to have a positive impact around the holidays. It's just one small "perk" that is very much appreciated.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** I was a paperboy on North 19th Street between Sangamon Avenue and Black Avenue.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Spider-Man; He is an underdog driven mostly by a strong heart. He doesn't let problems get in the way and tries to do the right thing. He is fun to watch and has a witty banter that I enjoy.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Taco Bell (two Fresco soft tacos and a glass of water).

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Vice President of Public Relations, THR and Associates
- **age:** 26
- **email:** matthew.enright@thrassociates.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, Twitter
- **education:** Millersport High School
- **family:** Wife, Tish; Daughter, Maliyah
- **affiliations:** Chamber of Commerce



### Matthew Enright

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Taking a risk by relocating 400 miles to work for a Springfield business to help them grow, while also helping myself reach new levels of success.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Being able to meet new people daily around the world.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** Waiting tables at Country Market restaurant in Millersport, OH.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Superman

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Ross Isaac's

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Legislative Director, Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF)
- **age:** 31
- **email:** jevans@iarf.org
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** BA, Illinois College – MA, University of Illinois - Springfield
- **family:** Wife, Destiny Nance-Evans
- **affiliations:** Palisades Homeowners Association, University of Illinois-Springfield Alumni Association, Illinois College Alumni Association



Joshua  
Evans

- **What has been your best business related decision?** To organize a successful advocacy plan or to work towards a change in state policy, I have to evaluate feedback from several decision makers – community agency executive directors, our policy staff, legislators, legislative staff, lobbyists – and of course, my President & CEO. It can be difficult to assess what level of control (planning, specific messaging, advocacy documents, research, etc.) one should manage in that environment, and balance how much is too much control – as it tends to consume you to the detriment of other position responsibilities or long-term strategizing. I think the best decision I've made occurred over time, in that I've learned to trust my coworkers and others in the process to do what needs to be done.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** I get to work with a diverse group of advocates, legislators, and staff from all parts of Illinois. Knowing I've been a small part of setting policy is rewarding.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Baling hay and straw for a farmer in Pawnee, 15.
- **Favorite Superhero?** I suppose Batman. Bruce Wayne doesn't have special powers or abilities, he's just a man that uses tools and resources available to him to achieve heroic acts. Of course, many of those resources aren't or will never be available to many of us.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** La Fiesta.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** On-Site Manager, Manpower
- **age:** 31
- **email:** lashonda.fitch@manpower.com
- **social networking:** LinkedIn
- **education:** Bachelors in Business Admin/Mgmt.
- **family:** Just me & my hubby for now!
- **affiliations:** Illinois Women in Leadership



Lashonda  
Fitch

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Taking on the On-Site Manager role. It has given me the opportunity to work with a very diverse group of people. I've been told by many that the professionalism I bring has really made a difference in the work environment.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Putting people back to work and helping them acquire or enhance their skills.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Cashier at McDonalds.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Batman
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Magic Kitchen. I love the spicy chili paste chicken!

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Development Associate, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- **age:** 26
- **email:** hfowler@gfcc.org
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter
- **education:** Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies, UIS
- **family:** Companion - Travis and Dog - Binx
- **affiliations:** Young Springfield Professionals Network, Leadership Springfield, Springfield Ballet Company, American Cancer Society, Community Garden



Holly  
Fowler

- **What has been your best business related decision?** When I selected The Chamber's internship, because it opened the door for a job offer prior to graduating.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Besides all the delicious food from Chamber members, I would say having the opportunity to work with the leaders of our community as we work to transform the economy of Sangamon County.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** I definitely did my share of mowing, babysitting and corn detasseling, but my first job was at a local bakery in Aurora when I was 14. I rode my bike there at 5:30 a.m.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Daredevil. I am a Stan Lee comic kid! Matt Murdock overcame adversity and became the "Man Without Fear." He had a drive you don't see in other superheroes.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Café Moxo for lunch and Wings, Etc. for dinner.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** General Sales Manager, Mid-West Family Broadcasting WNNS/WMQY/WQLZ/Alice
- **age:** 31
- **email:** jenna@wnns.com
- **social networking:** LinkedIn
- **education:** Degree in Business Administration. Currently working toward MBA at Benedictine University at Springfield.
- **family:** Husband, Mark; Children, Alex & Megan
- **affiliations:** Radio Advertising Bureau - Sales Advisory Committee, Leadership Springfield Graduate 2011, Springfield Chamber Small Business of the Year Committee, Springfield Chamber Business Connections Committee, RAB Rising through the Ranks Award Recipient, Illinois Women in Leadership, Springfield Rotary Midtown, Old Capitol Art Fair Board of Directors, Young Philanthropists



Jenna  
Fox

- **What has been your best business related decision?** My standing determination to never give up. Sometimes you have to "change course" based on new information but that is not defeat. There is always the first page to the next chapter. By nature I tend put myself in challenging positions and I believe that because of those experiences I have learned a great deal about facing adversity as well as developed the confidence to make great business decisions.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** My whole job is a perk! I work in radio so its fun and crazy all at the same time. The networking and community involvement is my favorite "perk". I learn about all kinds of opportunities to meet people and attend events. Part of my job is getting out in the public and meeting people... I actually get paid to do this!
- **What is the first job you ever had?** I was a waitress... It was owned by family members who believed in hard work. I definitely believe it shaped my work ethic and helped me understand customer service.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Batman hands down... who wouldn't want to drive the Batmobile!
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Everywhere... I'm always in a time crunch so if it weren't for restaurants I would starve. Indigo is my favorite. I love the Duck Enchiladas! Lobster! Sea Bass! Ok - I love everything there.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Owner, Macy Construction
- **age:** 35
- **email:** julndog@comcast.net
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** High School
- **family:** Wife, Julie; Daughter, Macy; Son, Owen; Dog, Winston
- **affiliations:** N/A



### Doug Hill

- **What has been your best business related decision?** To keep it small and personal.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Choosing my own destiny.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Busboy at the New England Lobster House
- **Favorite Superhero?** Incredible Hulk
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Brickhouse.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Owner, Brickhouse Grill & Pub / Brickhouse Downtown
- **age:** 30
- **email:** willhoe17@yahoo.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** Sacred Heart-Griffin, Western Illinois University
- **family:** Wife, Courtney; Daughter, Charleigh
- **affiliations:** Springfield West Side Rotary, Chapter 43 President Illinois Licensed Beverage Association



### William E. Hoecker, III

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Going out on my own and opening my restaurants.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Being my own boss.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Caddy / Bag Boy at Illini Country Club
- **Favorite Superhero?** He-Man
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Brickhouse Grill & Pub

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Salesman, Isringhausen Imports
- **age:** 26
- **email:** luke@isringhausen.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, MySpace
- **education:** Graduated from Calvary Academy 2003
- **family:** Single
- **affiliations:** Coached basketball at Calvary as well as coaching my younger brothers' basketball teams.



### Luke Isringhausen

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Finally taking my dad's advice and started working here at Isringhausen Imports as a salesman.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Getting to be around and drive some of the fastest and highest performing cars in the world on a daily basis.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Working in the detail department at Isringhausen Imports.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Superman
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Café Brio

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Assistant Vice President / Branch Manager, First Bankers Trust Company
- **age:** 30
- **email:** lucas.johnson@firstbankers.com
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** Bachelors Degree from Western Illinois University
- **family:** Married to Lauren Johnson. We have two dogs: Otis and Wrigley.
- **affiliations:** Springfield Westside Rotary, Owen Marsh Mentoring



### Luke Johnson

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Surrounding myself with ambitious and friendly employees.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** My job allows me to spend time with our current customers and potential customers away from the bank to attend community functions.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** A bank teller at the age of 16.
- **Favorite Superhero?** If I had to choose, it would be Batman.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** I would have to say Monty's. They are within walking distance from the bank and have good sandwiches and soups.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Public Information Officer/Spokesperson for IDOT, CMS
- **age:** 27
- **email:** joshuakauffman3@hotmail.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube
- **education:** M.B.A. from UIS; Bachelor's in Public Relations with double minor in Business Administration & Journalism from SIU-C; Associate of Art's in Communications from Hesston College, Kansas.
- **family:** I am a newlywed, married to my lovely college sweetheart, Megha, for almost a year and a half now. My parents, Neal and Roxanne, reside in Elwood, IL- a town located just south of Joliet- and my two brothers, Justin and Jared, currently live in Shorewood and Maryville, IL respectively.
- **affiliations:** Board of Directors/Membership Chair in Downtown Springfield Inc. (DSI), Advisory Board in Salvation Army, Young Springfield Professional Network member (YSPN), United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Calvary Temple.



Josh  
Kauffman

- **What has been your best business related decision?** In my last position, I strongly advocated to bring all relative marketing communications activities in-house (public service announcements, media buys, social media, public relations, marketing/advertising and community outreach). This move resulted in unparalleled quality control, branding, precision, strategic alliances with advertisers, marketers and consultants, and cost savings in the hundreds of thousands of dollars within the first year.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The accessibility and decentralized flexibility to work directly with IDOT's Outstanding Executive Management Team and staff at all levels to strategically formulate optimal solutions within a short period of time.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** My first job primarily involved road construction for the Elwood Public Works Department in which I was responsible for improving and maintaining local roads and buildings along with completing landscaping projects.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Raphael from the Ninja Turtles; even though he appeared contentious, Raphael brought unconventional leadership, innovation, charisma, confidence and of course, comic relief to the rest of the group.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** ethnic restaurants around town such as Little Saigon, La Fiesta and Gateway to India. (I honestly believe I am addicted to food at Little Saigon- just ask my wife).

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Public Relations Coordinator, Hanson Professional Services Inc.
- **age:** 33
- **email:** akay@hanson-inc.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter
- **education:** B.A., Communication & Political Science, Iowa State University
- **family:** Parents, Bill and Kathy; brother, Mike
- **affiliations:** Springfield Ballet Company, board (2011); Pregnancy Care Center, board (2006-2011); Association of Women in Communications, board (2009-2011); United Way, loaned executive (2010); Big Sister; Abe's Army; Sangamon County Citizens Police Academy, graduate; Leadership Springfield, graduate; committee work for Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, and American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois



Amy  
Kay

- **What has been your best business related decision?** I've been fortunate to work in both for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, providing me with a well-rounded foundation and the ability to share different ideas and perspectives from these experiences.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Hanson has its own library and librarian, so it's easy to get a book or use inter-library loan for all sorts of professional literature. It's awesome.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** I served as a fitting room attendant for a popular teen clothing store, and I spent the weekends picking clothes off of dressing room floors, hanging them up, and putting them away.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Wonder Woman
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Café Moxo for lunch.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Director, Center for Public Safety and Justice - Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois
- **age:** 38
- **email:** laura.kunard@gmail.com
- **social networking:** LinkedIn
- **education:** Ph.D., Criminology, University of Illinois at Chicago; M.A., Criminal Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago; B.A., Psychology and Sociology, Northwestern University
- **family:** I have been married to James McIntyre for 2 years and we have two dogs - a border collie named Wile E. and an Australian cattle dog named Taz.
- **affiliations:** I am active in a variety of anti-violence community organizations in the Englewood and Back of the Yards neighborhoods in Chicago. I am new to Springfield and I look forward to getting more involved here on the community level. I currently work closely with the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council, the Springfield Police Department and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.



Laura Louise  
Kunard

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Without a doubt, my best decision has been to pursue my education. Surrounding myself with talented academics and amazing mentors during my graduate school experience was my smartest move to date.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** My current job allows me to work in several arenas that I am passionate about: public safety, public policy, social justice and community preparedness. The opportunity to focus on fostering safer, healthier communities through the philosophy of community policing; education and training for law enforcement, first responders and the public; and encouraging the adoption of effective, common sense criminal justice policy is a perfect fit for me.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Hy-Vee Supermarket in Mankato, MN where I worked in the floral department.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Irwin M. Fletcher. While not technically a Superhero, Fletch is part crime fighter, part hard-hitting journalist, and part L.A. Lakers fan - all traits that make the world a better place.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Gateway to India on Wabash & Chatham: a vegan's dream!

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** DSM, Spine Wave / JML Medical LLC
- **age:** 35
- **email:** jmloftus12@aol.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** B.A., University of Illinois at Springfield
- **family:** Wife, Brandy; Parents, Robin & Don Loftus; Sister, Heather Boyer; Brother, Chris Loftus
- **affiliations:** Assistant Coach Soccer for the last 12 years, new Assistant Soccer Coach at LLCC



Jason  
Loftus

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Hiring people you can trust.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Lots of travel.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Bucking bales of hay for around 10 cents a bale.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Michael Jordan
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Sebastians, Lake Pointe Grill

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Orthopedic Surgeon, Orthopedic Center of Illinois
- **age:** 35
- **email:** cwmaender@me.com
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** Undergrad - Drury University, Medical School - St. Louis University, Residency in Orthopedic Surgery - SIU School of Medicine, Hand Fellowship - Univ. of Florida
- **family:** Wife, Sally; Son, Wally (5); Daughter, Ashleigh (4)
- **affiliations:** American Society for Surgery of the Hand, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, American Medical Association, Illinois State Medical Society, Sangamon County Medical Society



**Christopher W. Maender, M.D.**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** One, joining the Orthopedic Center of Illinois. Two, choosing to be a hand & upper extremity specialist. I love what I do every day.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The smile on a person's face after I've helped them get better.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Lifeguard
- **Favorite Superhero?** Superman. What could top the ability to fly & super-human strength?
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Little Saigon

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Physician / Owner, McCaffrey Family Health Center
- **age:** 38
- **email:** irishdr@comcast.net
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** Doctorate of Chiropractic, Internal Health, Digestive Health, Acupuncture, BA History, BA Human Biological Sciences
- **family:** Wife, Rebecca; Son, Conor (6)
- **affiliations:** Host WTAX's Health Call on Saturday from 8-9 for the past 11 years; board of directors for the Logan University Alumni Association.



**Sean McCaffrey**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Specializing in digestive work and chronic conditions. It has always amazed me at how many "incurable conditions" can be complete turned around. Helping someone to regain their quality of life never gets old. It's fantastic!
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Helping people to regain their life when they have been told their health condition will just have to be lived with.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Walking beans for Mr. Miller with my sisters and my brother in Junior High.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Tie between Underdog and Hong Kong Phooey
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Café Moxo. Their Saturday morning egg casserole is amazing!

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Executive Director of Human Resources, SIU School of Medicine
- **age:** 36
- **email:** pmccarty@siumed.edu
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** Williamsville High School, A.A. Lincoln Land Community College, B.A. U of I at Springfield (Communication); MHRIR U of I Champaign (Human Resources and Industrial Relations). Will begin the DPA program at UIS in Fall 2011.
- **family:** Husband: Bill; Son: Declan (3); Daughter: Carter (1)
- **affiliations:** Community Fund Panel Chair, United Way of Central Illinois; Member of Friends of the Auditorium Advisory Board at UIS; Member of Central Illinois Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (President 2005-2006); Leadership Springfield alum 2006. Children's Church teacher/VBS Music Leaders at Williamsville Christian Church; Springfield Muni Opera volunteer.



**Penny L. McCarty**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Participating as an examiner in a business analysis, comparable to the Baldrige Award, that required me to have knowledge of every aspect of the business in which I worked. That experience, in turn, has helped me to better perform my role in human resources, maintaining perspective of the whole.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** I am fulfilling a long-term career goal while living close to my hometown, family and friends. I also have an incredible team with whom I work every day.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Planting flowers and watering trees at Carter's Nursery and Flowers, my parents' business. I believe I was 5. Is that legal?
- **Favorite Superhero?** Elastigirl (The Incredibles)
- **"I dine out most often at..."** The Pizzeria at Humphrey's Market or Wings, Etc.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Regional Development Director, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois
- **age:** 29
- **email:** lnelson@girlscouts-gsci.org
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign, Springfield Southeast High School
- **family:** Ryan, husband; Joben, son (7 months); Lynn & Marilyn Raney (parents); Tom & Sue Nelson (in-laws)
- **affiliations:** Association of Fundraising Professionals - member & 2012 President-Elect, First United Methodist Church, Junior League of Springfield - member, Rotary Club of Springfield South - member & President, Young Philanthropists



**Lynette Nelson**

- **What has been your best business related decision?** I would say my best life decision is to enjoy every day that I have and find the joy in everything I do, which results in doing things that I love. I try to get to know everyone I meet and work with because I truly enjoy hearing everyone's personal story.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Working at Girl Scouts has given me the opportunity to work with and meet so many amazing young girls and women who truly are making such a difference in the lives of others which is a daily inspiration to me. I also get to enjoy Girl Scout cookies all year long - and who doesn't love that!?!
- **What is the first job you ever had?** My first paid job was scooping ice cream for fair lovers at the Dairy Building at the Illinois State Fair and it was amazing...I'm a huge ice cream lover!
- **Favorite Superhero?** I never really had a superhero growing up that I really was infatuated with. My life inspiration is Brian Raney.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** My family and I are big fans of visiting any local restaurant in town...and Springfield has a lot of great ones!

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Artist
- **age:** 34
- **email:** felicia@feliciaolin.com
- **social networking:** DeviantArt.com, Facebook
- **education:** Associates Degree from Springfield College in Illinois / BFA in Painting from Illinois State University
- **family:** Husband Jim Edgecomb, two cats, one dog
- **affiliations:** Prairie Art Alliance, Third Thursday Artist, and The Pharmacy Studio. Donated artwork to fundraisers and auctions for Montessori Children's House, SHS Gala, ISU's Friends of the Arts, APL, Springfield Rotary Club, Illinois Symphony Guild, Denim and Diamonds, Isles Elementary School, Pecha Kucha's Tsunami Relief, and IDNR's Rain Barrel Raffle.



Felicia  
Olin

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Around 2005 I decided I would make a real go at being a professional artist. I slowly turned what might be considered a hobby into a legitimate profession. Also, it has been a good decision to marry my husband, Jim, because he is always there to help out and he's good at all the traits I lack in.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Getting fan mail! It's great when my art reaches people all over the world. I love discovering that someone in a different county blogged about my paintings. It's connecting to someone on an emotional level without ever speaking a word.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** I detasseled corn for a summer. Every job after that is cake.

• **Favorite Superhero?** The Tick!

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Thai Kitchen 2. Mmmm pineapple curry... and Michelle is a fantastic waitress.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Graphic Designer / Web Designer, Brian Petty Design
- **age:** 33
- **email:** bpettydesign@gmail.com
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** AA, Lincoln College - Lincoln, IL; BFA, University of Tampa - Tampa, FL
- **family:** Parents, Duane and Karen Petty; Girlfriend, Neely Diers
- **affiliations:** Board Member, Young Springfield Professionals Network



Brian  
Petty

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Taking a chance and starting out on my own.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Flexibility in the hours I work and the ability to choose clients that I truly believe in.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** I had a paper route.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Superman

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Magic Kitchen.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** President, CRFoods, Inc.; Owner, Chadito's Mexican American Grill
- **age:** 31
- **email:** chaditos@sbcglobal.net
- **social networking:** Facebook, Twitter, Chaditos.com
- **education:** Lutheran High School ('98)
- **family:** Wife, Annette; Parents, Bill and Kay Reese; Brothers, Ben and Joe Reese
- **affiliations:** Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce



Chad  
Reese

• **What has been your best business related decision?** In 2008, Chadito's started a taco cart. We set up every Friday and Saturday night to feed the bar patrons in downtown Springfield.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Probably being able to meet the customers that come through the doors and give us the support we need to make this business grow. I have Great Customers!

• **What is the first job you ever had?** My grandparents owned Kate's Bait Shop in New City. I started helping them there when I knew how to count to 12. They sold a dozen worms in the containers to the fisherman. It was something I could do and I loved helping them.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Superman

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Chadito's, we have it all, from cheeseburgers to fish tacos. Chadito's is tough to beat.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Associate Attorney (family law and litigation) - Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP
- **age:** 29
- **email:** eriplinger@bhslaw.com
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** SIU School of Law, 2007 J.D.; University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, 2004 B.S.; Major: Psychology; Minor: Sociology
- **family:** Todd and Patty Riplinger (Parents); Natalie Heubner (Sister) and Adam Riplinger (Brother)
- **affiliations:** Central Illinois Foodbank, Board member (2010-); Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, Board member (2009-2010, 2010-2011); Sojourn Women's Shelter, Pro bono legal assistance (2008-); Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, Member; Sangamon County Bar Association, Member; Illinois State Bar Association, Member; American Bar Association, Member



Erica L.  
Riplinger

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Choosing to practice law with Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP in my hometown of Springfield, Illinois. There is a great sense of camaraderie in the legal community, and I enjoy working with clients from the area.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Practicing family law, I am able to help people in what can often be the most challenging time of their personal lives.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** A cashier at Best Buy.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Wonder Woman

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Osaka

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Chef / Owner, Secret Recipes
- **age:** 33
- **email:** secretrecipes03@yahoo.com
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** Quincy High School, Lincoln Land College, University of Illinois Springfield
- **family:** Wife, Beth Schutte; 3 dogs
- **affiliations:** Chamber of Commerce Springfield, Chatham, and Mt.Zion, the Springfield local favorites, Home Builders Association



Travis Schutte

- **What has been your best business related decision?** We have had many great business decisions including opening our banquet hall and becoming the exclusive caterer at the Abraham Presidential Library.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** I get to attend a lot of parties! And I always have a meal.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** The first job I ever had was working for my dad fixing up old houses.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Thor or Batman
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Of course Secret Recipes is my favorite restaurant, just kidding, probably my friends restaurant Azteca.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Registered Representative, Davis Financial Group
- **age:** 35
- **email:** kshores@davisfg.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** Bachelor's in Business Administration / Concentration in Finance, University of Illinois at Springfield
- **family:** Married to Renee'Michelle (Nagel) Shores in May 2002, "Bud" Yellow Lab & "Belle" English Pointer
- **affiliations:** United Cerebral Palsy of the Land of Lincoln Telethon Volunteer since 2005, Committee Member and Sponsor Lake Sangchris Ducks Unlimited since 2007, Member Pheasants Forever / Member National Wild Turkey Federation



Kelly W. Shores

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Career Path... Working in financial services allows me to get to know so many different people and really make a difference in their lives. I'm truly blessed for the opportunities that I've had.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The great relationships that I have with all my co-workers. It's nice to know that I'm surrounded by such caring and dedicated people that will help me or our clients when it really matters.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Like most youngsters in my community, I started at the early age of 14 helping farmers in the local community. First real job came 5 days after turning 16 working at a local pizzeria.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Rocky Balboa – Although he wasn't really a superhero, I think the story line of work hard and good things will come was very inspirational.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Any Springfield eatery that serves a great Horseshoe. I've called the Springfield area my home for most of my 35 years and I love to enjoy the most famous of "Springfield dishes".

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Broker Associate, RE/MAX Professionals
- **age:** 29
- **email:** jimmyskeetersjr@remax.net
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** Pleasant Plains and Western Illinois University
- **family:** Wife, Sarah; Stepson, Aden
- **affiliations:** Pleasant Plains School Board, Volunteer at the Mission Outreach.



Jim Skeeters, Jr.

- **What has been your best business related decision?** Purchasing real estate and joining RE/MAX Professionals. Being a new agent, I felt like the resources that were available to me were 2<sup>nd</sup> to none and would give me a bit of an edge over the competition.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** The interaction I have with clients. It feels good to help people fulfill their dream of home ownership. I enjoy meeting new people and like to work hard for them to find exactly what they are looking for.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** Mowing grass for my dad and grandparents. Taking care of some of their rental properties when I was younger. I hated it, but looking back it was not that bad.
- **Favorite Superhero?** I do not have a favorite superhero. I have two people that I have looked up to all my life and they are my parents. My childhood was awesome. They did everything in their power to make sure my sister and I were able to do the things we liked to do. They taught me a lot about the importance of family. I am very appreciative of everything they did for me!
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Sarah and I love to eat at locally owned places. I have a few favorites around town, like Pao, Augies, Ross Isaac's, American Harvest & Maldeners. I am sure I will add more to the list this summer.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Public Information Officer, St. John's Hospital
- **age:** 31
- **email:** erica.smith@st-johns.org
- **social networking:** Facebook
- **education:** MA English - University of Westminster, London; BA English - McKendree College
- **family:** DND
- **affiliations:** Community Theatre; Big Brother Big Sister; Downtown Springfield, Inc.



Erica Smith

- **What has been your best business related decision?** To focus on what makes me feel content and happy rather than what would earn the most money.
- **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** St. John's encourages creativity and new ideas.
- **What is the first job you ever had?** I worked as a clerk at Harry's Pharmacy in Auburn, IL.
- **Favorite Superhero?** Mary Poppins.
- **"I dine out most often at..."** Mario's.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Sales & Marketing Manager, Solar Universe Illinois
- **age:** 32
- **email:** lsmith@solaruniverse.com
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter
- **education:** Bachelor of Science - Experimental Psychology
- **family:** Children: Glen, Willow & Gideon
- **affiliations:** Springfield Theater Center, Senior Olympics Advisory Board, Green Business Network of Springfield, Chamber of Commerce, Over the Moon Productions



Larry  
Smith

• **What has been your best business related decision?** When I was with Ad-dus Healthcare we partnered with a retirement community. This increased our census, but more importantly, it afforded the residents the right to age in place, in their home, where they can stay happier and healthier.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Helping people and businesses to find the affordable clean energy solution that's right for them... and our executive meetings on Lake Springfield.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** Cleaning and maintaining the stalls at a hog confinement.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Batman. Even without special powers he's still the scariest, toughest guy out there and he knows how to balance his "night life" with his professional life.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Hunan on Wabash. Best sushi at the best price in town.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Director of Donor & Public Relations, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln
- **age:** 33
- **email:** sublett@cfl.org
- **social networking:** Facebook, LinkedIn
- **education:** Illinois State University (BS in Biology, Minor in Chemistry)
- **family:** Mother, Janet Sublett of Springfield; Sisters, Kristin (Bloomington) & Noelle (Spartanburg, SC)
- **affiliations:** Association of Fundraising Professionals - Past President, Sierra Club Board, Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism Leadership Team, Leadership Springfield - 2010 graduate; Member of: Young Philanthropists, YSPN and Illinois Stewardship Alliance.



Jennifer  
Sublett

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Becoming involved with the local chapter of my professional organization - the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Helping people give away money. We are able to provide local charities with grants and students with college scholarships.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** My first job, other than babysitting, was as a Page at Lincoln Library.

• **Favorite Superhero?** Aquaman.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** Sam's Italian Pizza.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** Manager Financial Services, Prudential Insurance Company
- **age:** 30
- **email:** timothy.welch@prudential.com
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** Spoon River College, Western Illinois University, Southern Illinois University
- **family:** Single - Two brothers and a sister, Jason, Allen and Audrey
- **affiliations:** Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, YSPN, Sangamo Club Young Professionals, UIS, Downtown Springfield Inc., Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society and the Special Olympics



Timothy M.  
Welch

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Joining Prudential and moving to Springfield. This decision allowed me set and attain many goals on a much larger scale.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** Being able to go out and be a part of the community is expected in my job and it is also one of my favorite things to do. I enjoy meeting new people and this career demands that I do exactly that.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** On-Air Talent at WKAI / K100 Radio in Macomb

• **Favorite Superhero?** Superman without a doubt. When I was a kid I used to tie my blanket around my neck and pretend I was flying. I actually broke my arm in one of those attempts as I slipped off the bathtub. How embarrassing!

• **"I dine out most often at..."** The Brickhouse and Charlie Parker's depending on the time of day.

## Forty Under 40 • 2011

- **position:** President, Frank & West Environmental Engineers, Inc.
- **age:** 39
- **email:** cwest@fwieng.com
- **social networking:** N/A
- **education:** Civil Engineering - SIU
- **family:** Wife - Lisa; Daughter - Grace; Son - Jack
- **affiliations:** Member of West Side Christian Church; Calvary Temple Men's Softball League



Chris  
West

• **What has been your best business related decision?** Hiring my current staff. They are the best there is.

• **What is the best 'perk' about your current job?** We are flexible with our hours so we can be with our families.

• **What is the first job you ever had?** Farmer

• **Favorite Superhero?** Aquaman - Anyone who is able to spend that much time in the ocean is fine by me. Gotta love the ocean.

• **"I dine out most often at..."** I don't eat out a lot but the tortellini soup at Bella Trattoria's in Williamsville is outstanding.

JEFF ABERNATHY • AARON D. ACREE • DON P. ADAMS • DEAN ADKINS • PETER ANTHONY ALBANESE • JIM ALBERTS • RICK ALLENDER • JEFF AMBROSE • DESMOND ANDERSON • DEB ANDERSON TIMONEY • KRISTEN L. ANDRESS • LISA ANDREW • JOEL C. ANDREWS • TOM APPELT • B. HELLAR ARM-BRUSTER • GUNTHER ARMBRUSTER • RACHAEL ATCHISON • JEFF BALL • DON BARBER • ROBERT BARBER, JR. • JULIO BARREZUELA • JESSICA BASHAM • TOM BAYER • AMY BEADLE • MICHELLE L. BEARDEN • ADAM BECK • JOHN BECKER • KRISTAN BECKER HOFFMAN • KIM BEGGS • LAWRENCE BELL • KYLE BELZ • JENNIFER J. BENANTI • JOHN C. BENANTI • VIVIAN BENNETT • JENNIFER BETTIS • SARAH L. BEUNING • SCOTT D. BEVILL • HEATHER BIGARD • GREG BIRKY • LARRY K. BLACK • DAVID BLANCHETTE • JUSTIN A. BLANDFORD • ERICH J. BLOXDORF • KEVIN BOEHM • JILL BOHRINGER • RICK BRANDT • RUDY BRAUD • JEFF BRICKER • LAURA ELAINE BRIDGES • J.T. BRITTON • ZACHERY BRITTON • MATT BROCH • NICOLE E. BROCH • RACHEL BROOKS • ANDREW BRUINGTON • CHRISTOPHER A. BRULEY • JOSEPH A. 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