



# 40 under FORTY

The Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, in a partnership with *Arlington Today*, has selected the inaugural class of outstanding young leaders in the area. Here is a chance to get to know them or know them better ...



## Solomon Adair

Lead Pastor  
Inspired To Live Church

The founding pastor of Inspired To Live Church, Solomon Adair is actively influencing and guiding the Arlington community through a broad range of projects, including leading free summer camps, men's retreats, back-to-school drives, and other initiatives.



Adair also has teaching roots, which began at Arlington Hutcheson Junior High. He was honored by his alma mater, Wichita State University, with the "Building Bridges Award" for his professional accomplishments and contributions in his field.

Although officially 'retired' from the teaching profession, he continues to prioritize service to the educational community through support for several Metroplex schools.

In addition to Pastor Adair's pastoral duties, he broadened his contributions to Arlington and the nonprofit sector through his service on the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation Citizens Advisory Committee and its work to Contribute to a Thriving Arlington. When Adair isn't leading his congregation or the community, he enjoys playing basketball, spending time with his wife of 17 years, Elisabeth, and his beautiful baby daughter, Eden.

## Jamil Ahmed, CFP®, CAP®

Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones

Jamil Ahmed is a family focused, community minded financial advisor with Edward Jones, which is celebrating its 100th year of helping people realize their financial objectives. He believes education is the key to helping people continue to grow their impact and continues to educate himself. Jamil



is a CFP® professional and has also earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® designation.

Jamil believes that our legacy is leaving the world better than it was found, and his mission is that for his two children Asiya, Yaseen and his niece Aleena. He strives to make the business community better as a board member of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the community a better place by being an Arlington

Sunrise Rotarian and helping to develop future community leaders through his work with Leadership Arlington.

He believes experiences shape us and enjoys sharing new and unique experiences with people. He loves to travel with his wife Nargis and has visited over 30 states and five countries so far. Jamil also enjoys cooking, fishing, football and soccer.

## Lisa Britt, MSN, RN, CEN

Director of Emergency & Critical Care Services  
Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital

Lisa Britt, MSN, RN, CEN, is the Director of Emergency and Critical Care Services at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital. She began her nursing career in 2006 as an emergency department nurse at Texas Health Fort Worth and moved to her current hospital in 2018. She oversees the day-to-day operations, finances, outcomes, and patient experience of the critical care service line.



In her role at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital, helped facilitate a Teddy Bear Clinic for 100 kindergarten students from Speer Elementary. She also has worked with city officials to supply clinical resources and supplies first-aid stations at events, such as Fourth of July Parades, Light Up Arlington, and the Veritex Bank Golf Championship

held at the Texas Ranger's Golf Club. In addition, she volunteers at Mission Arlington and as a shepherd in the children's ministry at her church, Crossroad Arlington of Pantego.

Outside of work, she loves spending time with her husband Jeremy and their children, Henry (11), William (8) and Grace (6). She enjoys baking, fishing, thrift shopping, reading, and unwinding at the family cabin in Mount Vernon.

## Stephanie Buduhan

Owner  
Stephanie Buduhan CPA

Stephanie Buduhan has a passion for helping nonprofit organizations. With over 18 years of experience in accounting under her belt, she started her own CPA practice in 2022, providing auditing, accounting, and consulting services exclusively to nonprofit organizations. She finds her work



to be extremely fulfilling, noting "If I can help a nonprofit, even just a tiny bit, to be better and do better, then I know my work is worthwhile."

In addition to working with nonprofits, Stephanie enjoys giving back and volunteering with nonprofits. She currently serves on the Boards for Dental Health for Arlington, Higher Education Servicing Corporation, and the Texas Society of CPAs.

Another group Stephanie is proud to support is the Women's Alliance of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce. She is thrilled to be serving as the Chair for the Women's Alliance for 2022-2023.

Outside of work and volunteering, Stephanie loves traveling to tropical locations, trying new restaurants, going to the theatre to see Broadway musicals, and binge watching TV shows on Netflix with her husband and best friend Patrick.

## Cole Carter

VP, Property Management and Property Tax  
Peyco Southwest Realty, Inc.

**C**ole Carter, Vice President of Property Management and Property Tax at Peyco Southwest Realty, has been with the company since 2019 and is involved in many divisions of the business. His focus is on property management, brokerage and property tax consulting, but his role also includes IT, marketing and maintenance.



He was born and raised in Arlington and got an early start in Arlington businesses working for The Man's Shop during high school and Horizon Plumbing in early college years. Following his graduation from the University of Alabama, he began his career with Martin Sprocket & Gear, where he held several positions ending with branch manager of the Kansas City plant.

Each company provided him with a unique skill set, lessons and mentors that enable him to be a dynamic leader. Cole has become deeply integrated in the Arlington community through his work at Peyco but also as a director for the Arlington Margarita Society. He resides in Arlington with his wife Lauren and two little ones, Beckett and Adeline. They enjoy spending time with their extended families outdoors at Possum Kingdom Lake or in the Colorado Rockies.

## Douglas Cooper

Principal  
mma, Inc.

**D**ouglas Cooper, AICP, has over 15 years of planning experience. He earned his bachelor's degree from Texas State University and master's degree in Urban Planning from The University of Texas at Arlington. A certified planner, Cooper is a member of the American Planning Association and American



Planning Association - Texas Chapter.

Douglas is a principal at mma, Inc., and leads multi-disciplinary teams on complex zoning and land development projects that involve engaging community leaders, stakeholders, and citizen groups. He also leads the business development efforts at mma and works closely with fellow principals to develop both short- and long-term strategies for how to lead mma in the right direction.

He serves on the City of Fort Worth's Urban Design Commission and on the Board of Directors for the Ryan Place Improvement Association. He served on the Board of Directors for the Levitt Pavilion from January 2013 to May 2019.

When he isn't working, you'll find Cooper, his wife Katie, and daughter Daisy working in the yard, tinkering in the garage, fishing at the ranch, or exploring great cities and parks all over the world.

## David E. Curtis, Jr.

Director of Human Resources  
4over International, LLC

**D**avid E. Curtis, Jr., joined 4over International, LLC, in July 2021 as Senior Manager, Human Resources to lead the HR function at the company's plants. Currently, he is Director of Human Resources for the communication products and services company, with nine direct reports. He focuses on



developing the People Strategy, developing the HR team, and working to have a highly engaged workforce at 4over.

In his community, David says his key highlight is being the chair for the Arlington Field of Honor. "Being able to help our community honor the heroes in their lives is a tremendous honor," he says.

He is also on the Board of Directors for a long-time Arlington Non-profit, Dental Health for Arlington.

Outside the office, David and his wife love hanging out with their 4-year-daughter and playing outside, playing games, or hanging out with extended family. When they get a chance, the Curtises try to take their daughter to new cities to help her experience different cultures and attractions.

## Nadia DiStefano

Community Engagement Coordinator  
The Oakridge School

**N**adia DiStefano has been with Oakridge just shy of five years as the Community Engagement Coordinator. This position develops an annual community awareness and outreach plan. Serving people in some 76 zip codes, Nadia's job is to extend Oakridge's presence, making sure anyone



interested in an independent school education knows about the school, and feels welcome to learn more about the application process.

Previously, she was with Boys & Girls Clubs, The Women's Center, American Red Cross, and numerous other non-profits. She has volunteered with Junior League, Arlington Museum of Art, Theatre Arlington, Women's Alliance with the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce,

Leadership Arlington, and TCU School of Social Work. She just completed four years on the advisory board of the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, and she is a member of Women Inspiring Philanthropy.

Nadia has twin 7-year-old girls, Harper and Emerson. She is also close to sisters Sarah and Hanna, and nephew Grayson, and she credits her mother, Janet, as "the one who keeps us going."

## Elena N. Fernandez

Partner  
Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP

**E**lena N. Fernandez joined Perdue Brandon in 2015 and became a Partner in 2020. Elena specializes in delinquent property tax collection and delinquent fines and fees collection. She is a member of the Firm's National Marketing, Website Development and Social Media Committees.



Elena received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Law and Public Policy from the University of Southern California. She earned her law degree from Texas Southern University. She also has a certificate in nonprofit management with an emphasis in fundraising and philanthropy from Texas A&M University. Elena is licensed to practice law in Texas, Illinois, and Arizona.

Elena is very active in the community, serving on several nonprofit boards that speak to education, homelessness, and empowering young women. She is Chair of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce's Black Business Alliance.

She enjoys playing softball in an adult coed league, and she loves to spend quality time with her family and to travel.

## Brittany Garcia-Dumas

Owner  
BGD Digital Marketing

**B**rittney Garcia-Dumas is a Business Branding Strategist from Arlington with a degree in Anthropology and five years experience in Strategic Marketing. As owner of BGD Digital Marketing, a comprehensive Corporate Branding company focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, she has helped businesses large and small profit from their unique strengths. BGD Digital Marketing utilizes state-of-the-art processes and one-on-one customer care to launch, modernize, and grow businesses through Comprehensive Branding, Social Media Management, Graphic Design, Website Design, and Consulting.



Brittney is a proud Latina business owner, speaker, and advocate for women. Her personal touch approach has opened doors for her to

lead talks on modern Marketing practices, women's empowerment, business strategies, and rallying others through her perspective of #HustleHappy business ownership. Brittney participates on multiple boards and advisory councils, including Arlington Mayor Jim Ross' Latino and Women's Advisory Board, Downtown Arlington Management Corporation Board, and Chairing the Latino Business Group for the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

## Kelly Geer

Director, Communications & Business Development  
Urban Tree Merchants

**K**elly Geer and her husband Caleb launched Urban Tree Merchants in January of 2019. Kelly is primarily responsible for "the business side," including Social Media Management, Marketing, PR, Advertising, Networking, Inventory Management, Client Relations, Workflow & Job Tracking, Office Manager, HR, and Finances.



For the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Kelly serves as the Chair of the Young Professionals, the Communications Chair for the Women's Alliance, and as the Silent Auction Chair for the Inspired Women Luncheon. Kelly is the Marketing Committee Chair for the North Texas Woodworkers Association. Kelly also volunteers with Dental Health Arlington and the River Legacy

Foundation. She is on the Women's Ministry team at North Davis Church of Christ, and she volunteers her time to several church endeavors.

Kelly enjoys traveling around the world, going to events, taking photographs, and trying new food and drinks. She has been to over 15 countries. She and Caleb have known each other for over 15 years, and she is the "Fancy Aunt" to over 15 nieces and nephews.

## Katie Gosa

Vice President  
Downtown Arlington Management Corp.

**K**atie Gosa is the Vice President of Downtown Arlington Management Corporation. She is passionate about bringing together our community to build a creative, collaborative, and connected city.

She currently serves as a member of the University of Texas System



Chancellor's Centurions, as the vice chair for the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, and as co-chair for the Mayor's Young Adult Advisory Council. She also sits on the University of Texas at Arlington "Football Team": A Creative Collective Board of Directors, supporting the professional development of UTA students and other young adults interested in the arts as a career in Arlington. She was previously a member of the Leadership North Texas

University (Class of 2020), the UT System Student Advisory Council Executive Committee Historian (2018-2019), the UT System Student Advisory Council UTA Student Representative (2017-2019), the UTA Student Body President (2017-2018) and the Vice President of Administration for the Beta Epsilon chapter of her sorority, Delta Delta Delta. She is the proud pet mom of two, and loves traveling and spending time with her six nieces and nephews.

## Austin C. Grissett

Area Supervisor/Next Gen Candidate  
Grissett Enterprises McDonald's

**A**ustin Grissett was 2 years old when his parents, Anthony and Arminda, bought their first McDonald's Restaurant 30 years ago, and he has been immersed in the McDonald's experience since. At 16, he started as a crew member and is now an Area Supervisor overseeing stores in the Arlington market, while working to become an approved McDonald's owner/operator to continue his family's legacy.



He routinely donates restaurant food to charitable causes, including the Martin High School Bahama Bash, the Diabetes Squad-Up, Irving's Back to School Luncheon for Teachers, Unity Unlimited's Juneteenth Celebration, the First Responders and Teachers event, the YMCA's annual Polar Plunge, Elliott Elementary School's Literacy

Night partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., AISD's Father Festival, Girls Inc.'s Spring Break, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Fun Day. He also read to children at New Life Fellowship's African American Read-In. Austin says best gift God has given him is his wife and their two children, Aayla and Vakenzo. He also enjoys attending and watching sports, collecting sneakers, watching his daughter play sports, and traveling with his wife.

## Washima Huq

Executive Director  
Texas Trust Gives Foundation

**W**ashima Huq is the Executive Director of the Texas Trust Gives Foundation, the charitable arm of Texas Trust Credit Union, where she oversees grants, scholarships and volunteerism. She has an MBA in Marketing from The University of North Texas and a BBA in Management from The University of Texas at Arlington.



In 2022, she received the Women's Alliance Rising Star Award, and in 2021, she was named Cornerstone Credit Union League's Young Professional of the Year and received the Shining Star in Banking Award by UTA SSRE. Washima has graduated from Leadership Mansfield, and currently serves on nine boards and committees in North Texas, including City of Arlington's Unity Council

and Mayor's Young Adult Advisory Council, Arlington-Mansfield Area YMCA, WIP, Greater Arlington Chamber Women's Alliance and Asian Business Council, Texas Trust's Community Unity Team, and Mansfield ISD Superintendent's Advisory Council. Her work exemplifies empowering youth and diversity, and she has used many public speaking platforms to address this cause. In her spare time, she loves to travel, drink fancy lattes and spend time with her family and friends.

## Jonathan Januta

Vice President  
Frost Bank

**J**onathan Januta joined Frost Bank in May 2013 and is a Vice President - Commercial Banking Officer. His responsibilities include selling all bank products and servicing the customers' needs; calling on prospects; growing existing relationships; maintaining the best interest of the bank and customers in all matters; identifying customers' financial needs and delivering the appropriate Frost products and services.



Jonathan is a graduate of the 2014 class of Leadership Arlington and a subsequent board member. He has been or is a board member of the Arlington Sunrise Rotary Club and the AISD Education Foundation. He is a past parade director for the Arlington Holiday Lights Parade

organization for eight plus years and has co-chaired the planning and steering committee of the Arlington Silver Eagle (Boy Scouts) annual fundraising event for the past five years. He's a frequent volunteer at local Habitat for Humanity builds and is actively involved at Rush Creek Church and Arlington Classics Academy. Jonathan enjoys spending quality time with his family, volunteering, fishing, camping, traveling, and listening to and occasionally playing music.

## Walker Johnson

Energy Sales Leader  
EightTwenty

**F**or the past decade, Walker Johnson, EightTwenty's Energy Sales Leader for DFW/Texas, has served the community, both occupationally and through volunteering. Walker says the solar-energy company puts people at the center of everything it does, which makes it a great fit for him, given his altruistic nature.



He has served as area director for Young Life and in the ministry for 10 years and was co-founder of 100 Men that Give a Damn Arlington along side his friend Spencer Cearnal. He has been on the board of Bikes for Mission Arlington, as well as an annual Salvation Army Bell Ringer. He was committee chair of the Young Life Arlington Golf Tournament, in addition to serving on the Re-Ministry board, as a member of the Camp Eagle Men's Retreat

board, and as a member of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce. 100 Men has raised over \$100,000 to date for local non profits, the Young Life golf tournament has raised \$200,000 the past four years, and Bikes for Mission Arlington has donated over 15,000 bikes to Mission Arlington for the Christmas Store. Walker's other interests include golf, rooting for DFW sports teams and the Tennessee Vols, along with spending time with his friends and family.

## Shannon Kidd

District Director for  
State Representative Tony Tinderholt

For the past six years, Shannon Kidd has served constituents of House District 94 as District Director for State Representative Tony Tinderholt. She manages all operations and communications in the Arlington office, coordinating three email accounts and a state calendar, while attending events, and presenting recognition. She also currently serves as President of the Tarrant County Delegation Round Table.



She says the highlight of her role is bringing certificates to new businesses, writing letters of recognition, creating resolutions for milestones, and uplifting people as much as she can. She is especially proud of the victories while assisting constituents with casework involving state agencies and bringing much-needed relief to their current

hardships. She also serves on councils in the Greater Arlington Chamber, such as the VBC and PPAC.

Shannon enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, highlighted by outdoor movie night, the children's soccer/dance endeavors, and swimming. She also volunteers her time as a room parent at her children's school and teaches in the Kid's Ministry at her church.

## Aziz Kobty

Owner & Chef  
Prince Lebanese Grill

Aziz Kobty is Chef and Owner of Prince Lebanese Grill. The restaurant was founded by his father, Francis "Prince" Kobty in 1989, the same day Aziz was born. Legend has it he learned to cook before he could walk.

Professionally, Aziz has appeared multiple times on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins & Dives" and "DDD Nation." Aziz also has been featured as a celebrity chef for the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers.



Aziz loves his work but puts a large emphasis on serving his community. He is frequently called on by other city leaders to serve.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Arlington Police Foundation, Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Greater

Arlington Chamber of Commerce. Prince is also a sponsor of the AISD Chef Practicum Program that mentors and prepares high school students for the work force. Aziz also serves on the Arlington Charities Help & Hope Committee raising money for their food bank by being a featured chef at their showcase dinner. Aziz believes in always giving back more than he receives and leaving everything he comes in contact with better than when he found it.

## Valerie Landry

General Manager  
The Sanford House Inn & Spa and Restaurant506

Valerie (McDonald) Landry is an Arlington native. She attended Hofstra University, on an academic scholarship, and captained the Division 1 Tennis Team during her undergraduate tenure. Graduating with honors, Valerie returned to Texas, to join the family business, The Sanford House Inn & Spa in 2008.



She has led the company through several iterations, helping to diversify the scope of the business, including the development of Arlington's top fine-dining restaurant, Restaurant506.

She is on the Boards of numerous organizations, including the Rotary Club of Arlington, Downtown Arlington Management Corporation, Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, and the Arlington Convention & Visitor's Bureau. Valerie

earned her MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington College of Business and was awarded the 2017-2018 Alumni Award for Outstanding Early Career Achievement. In 2018, Valerie received the Rising Star Award on behalf of the Women's Alliance.

Valerie is married to Christopher Landry, and they have two daughters, Vivian and Arya. In her free time, Valerie enjoys playing tennis, cooking, and traveling.

## Chris T. Lee, M.D.

Partner and Physician  
Central Park ENT, LLP

Dr. Chris T. Lee joined Central Park ENT in 2015 after completing his residency, and he was made Partner there shortly thereafter. He treats patients with many different problems of the ears, nose, throat, and head and neck, offering both surgical and medical options depending on the problem.



He says he is in a unique position in that he gets to practice medicine in the community in which he grew and that helped raise him to become who he is today. Nearly every day he gets to see a patient from the Arlington community that knew him from his time growing up in Arlington. Some of his patients include his Kindergarten teacher from Pope Elementary, his Physics teacher from Lamar High School, and many family and church friends that knew him as a child.

Dr. Lee helps coach my boys' baseball teams at North Arlington Little League and volunteers at Little Elementary where his two older children currently attend. He is an active member at North Davis Church of Christ.

He says he loves spending time with his beautiful wife Amanda and their three children. He also enjoys exercising, skiing, and golfing.

## Alexandra MacMartin, CPA

Senior Auditor  
Sutton Frost Cary LLP

Alexandra MacMartin is a licensed CPA and senior auditor at Sutton Frost Cary LLP, with a focus on nonprofit audits. She approaches community involvement with the mindset that if she can't give enough money to create real change, then she can give her time and professional knowledge to help. She is



Co-Chair of the United Way of Tarrant County City of Arlington's grant committee, as well as serving on the steering committee.

Alexandra is also involved with the North Texas Community Foundation's youth philanthropist group, WORTH; she chairs the group's grant committee and is a member of its steering committee. Alexandra is actively involved with the Texas Society of Certified Professional Accountants'

Fort Worth Chapter. She is often invited to speak to students at the University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant Community College. Additionally, she is active in the Young Professionals steering committee, leadership development, and financial literacy programming.

On the hyper local level, Alexandra joined her neighbors in a fledgling community litter clean-up group, the Fairmount Trash Pirates.

## Jose Manjarrez

Program Manager  
CAE USA

Jose Manjarrez is Program Manager at CAE USA, which is a high-technology company that brings together the digital and physical realms in civil aviation, defense and security, and healthcare to create a safer world.

Jose started his career as an aircraft maintenance instructor teaching the Royal Australian Air Force. He transitioned to test director in engineering, focusing on military aircraft maintenance programs, and was promoted to program manager. He is responsible for the overall performance of all assigned programs and the company's primary contact with military customers.

As a veteran, he focuses much of his civic involvement on the military community. He volunteers and supports Flags for Fallen Veterans and Wreaths Across America. He says he has enjoyed seeing how participation has increased throughout the years with coworkers bringing their friends and family to support such events.

Jose has three children, who keep him pretty busy. He also enjoys fishing with his family, traveling to new places, and finding a new coffee shop with his wife for their "mini coffee dates!"



## Ja'Nae McGee

Lieutenant  
Arlington Police Department

Lieutenant Ja'Nae McGee has over a decade of experience with the Arlington Police Department. She is currently assigned to the South Patrol district and is responsible for directing and administering the management functions of a patrol division. She directs subordinates, administers programs, and develops goals for assigned departments. She also serves on the SWAT team as an Executive Officer and a Negotiator.



Ja'Nae is as an executive member on the APD's Education and Awareness within Technology board. She created and chaired a Women's Leadership Symposium, implemented a Parental Guidance Required program in The Parks Mall, introduced a Women's Mentoring program to effectively increase

female officer representation at all ranks. She also created and led "Bridge Kids," a comprehensive problem-oriented policing project to address crime and disorder at Lynn Hale Elementary School. Bridge Kids won the Texas municipal police award in 2019 and Ja'Nae earned the State of Texas achievement award for enforcement officers committed to exceeding the normal expectations of job performance through acts of professional achievement in public service.

## Christopher D. McMurrugh

Associate Professor of Instruction  
The University of Texas at Arlington

Christopher D. McMurrugh is a computer engineer specializing in automation & robotics in Arlington. He works as an Associate Professor of Instruction in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he earned the 2022 UTA Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



His community involvement includes working with the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation Citizens' Advisory Board, The Arlington Rotary Foundation Executive Board, The Arlington Rotary Club Leadership Board, and The Arlington Sculpture Garden Board. He previously served as the President of Young Men for Arlington, as well as an elder at his church.

Chris credits his engineering achievements to his computer science teacher at Arlington High School, and thus recognizes the importance of cultivating interest in technology careers as early as possible. He serves as a mentor for the Martin High School RoboBoat team.

Chris spends most of his free time with his two sons and his wife, and tries to volunteer in the community as much as possible.

## Lyndsay Mitchell

Strategic Initiatives Officer  
City of Arlington

**L**yndsay Mitchell serves as the Strategic Initiatives Officer for the City of Arlington. Lyndsay and her team focus on special projects for the City Manager's Office, economic development assistance, research & analytics, and neighborhood engagement.



Lyndsay has been with the City for over 14 years and has managed numerous key projects, including the Downtown Master Plan, multiple Citizen's Bond Committees, the Arlington Urban Design Center, autonomous vehicle deployments, and assisted with the development of Globe Life Field, Texas Live!, Live! by Loews, and the Loews Arlington Hotel and Convention Center. She is a graduate of both Rice University and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Lyndsay is a member of the Junior League of Arlington and has served on the several AISD capital committees. Each year, she speaks on careers in local government to hundreds of students in grades K-12. When she's not working, you can find Lyndsay doing laps, either at the pool or at Arlington Skatium. Lyndsay and her husband Ryan reside in the Enchanted Lakes Estates neighborhood with their son Owen and daughter Evelyn.

## Katie Morgan

VP, Business Analytics & Ticket Strategy  
Texas Rangers Baseball Club

**K**atie Morgan began with the Texas Rangers in 2008 and is currently Vice President of Business Analytics & Ticket Strategy, where she oversees the Ticket Operations department and leads the Texas Rangers' efforts in the Ticket Strategy space. Katie is a member of the Texas Rangers Inclusion & Community



Impact Council. In 2018, she was selected to represent the Rangers at the second annual Katy Feeney Leadership Symposium hosted by Major League Baseball to continue advancing support for female leaders within baseball.

Outside of work, she has been a participant and mentor with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training, participated in the Walk to Cure ALS, and was a participant and president of the board of directors for BvB Dallas. More recently, Katie has been involved in philanthropic endeavors directly related to the Texas Rangers Foundation. Katie has participated in volunteer efforts at Mission Arlington, Safe Haven, USO packing events, food pantries, and the Texas Rangers Youth Academy. She enjoys spending time with her husband Tanner and two-year-old daughter Lucy, traveling, attending sporting events, and seeing friends and family.

## Alberto Parra, M.D.

Physician  
The Center For Cancer And Blood Disorders

**D**r. Alberto Parra practices at The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders as a bilingual, dual-certified Hematologist and Oncologist with clinics in both Fort Worth and Arlington. He serves as treasurer of the practice, and he sits on the Baylor Scott and White Quality Alliance Executive Board.



Dr. Parra offers advanced cancer treatment to patients in Fort Worth. He spends time with each patient and works closely with a team of surgeons, radiation oncologists, nurses, dietitians, patient navigators, and other support staff to ensure that each individual receives a customized treatment plan. This approach provides the best opportunity for a cure while focusing on maintaining the patient's quality of life.

Dr. Parra has been happily married to his childhood sweetheart, Catherine Parra, since 2008, and they have three children: their twin girls, Alexa and Avery, and their son, AJ. The Parras enjoy supporting their children in their various sporting, cultural and academic endeavors. Dr. Parra enjoys exercising and reading. The family is also avid travelers and are always looking forward to their next adventure.

## Ashley Purgason, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Provost for Student Success  
The University of Texas at Arlington

**D**r. Ashley Purgason has worked at the University of Texas at Arlington, one of her alma maters, for nine years in varying roles, most recently in the Division of Student Success. She works on student success efforts daily, including student academic support, advising, and more.



She says she is fortunate to be surrounded by "an incredibly talented group of staff that devote extra time and heart to our Maverick students every day."

Ashley has coached youth sports teams, participated in philanthropic work through the Michael Gilles Purgason Foundation, volunteered with the Fourth of July Parade, tutored students in science, donated annually to UTA, and donated school supplies to local schools and teachers. She lives in Arlington, as well, and was born here. Her children are cared for daily in Arlington, and her family attends a local house of worship here.

She enjoys spending time with her husband, daughters, and extended family. She loves sports, especially basketball and volleyball, and sci fi films and shows. She likes to follow all things space exploration after working at NASA for five years.

## Skyler Reed

Chief Operating Officer  
Medical City Arlington

Skyler Reed serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Medical City Arlington (MCA). As a member of the hospital's Executive Team, he is responsible for the day to day operations of the facility with direct oversight over several hospital departments, strategic planning, facility construction, and programmatic development.



He serves on the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to positively affect the future of the community as a whole. He's passionate about mentorship and makes an active effort to be involved with the development of leaders both within and outside of his organization. He serves as an HCA Executive Development Program Mentor, a Senior Advisor for Trinity University's

Master's program, and also as St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarship mentor to undergraduate students pursuing a career in healthcare. He's actively engaged with the American Heart Association and also the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through work-place campaigns, volunteering, and donations.

Skyler and his wife, April, have three beautiful kids and could not be happier to be in the North Texas area.

## Carri Rutkowski

Director of Sales  
Texas Live!

Carri Rutkowski, Director of Sales at Texas Live!, has 15 years of hospitality experience, 12 with Cordish Company, where she ensures that small and large-scale events not only meet but exceed clients' expectations.

Over the past four years at Texas Live! she has worked with prominent



organizations serving in Arlington, including the Texas Rangers Foundation, the Faith Fight Finish Foundation, the Arlington Chapter of NAACP, the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Arlington Black Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County, the Travel & Sport Legacy Foundation, and the National Medal of Honor

Museum. She assists organizations with moderately priced events, supporting them through in-kind donations, and collaborating on career exploration opportunities. She contributed to the district by donating over \$91,000 last year to support the community with in-kind donations.

She maintains a healthy lifestyle and enjoys going to concerts and spending time with family and her cat, Hobson.

## Catherine Samson

Audit Manager  
PSK LLP

Catherine "Cat" Samson began working at PSK LLP as an audit associate in 2018. She became a licensed CPA in 2019 and was recognized as having one of the top 10 scores in Texas on the CPA exams that year. Today, Cat continues to work at PSK as an Audit Manager supporting and training audit team members and providing auditing and consulting services for various industries with a focus on not-for-profit organizations.



Outside of work, Cat enjoys bringing the gift of music to others by playing the flute as a member of the Arlington Community Band. Cat routinely volunteers and supports organizations in the Greater Arlington area, including her sister's business, Stagedoor Dance Centre in

Mansfield, and at the annual Hart Street Pottery ChristmasFest event, located in east Fort Worth. Cat's work at PSK has provided additional volunteer opportunities such as PSK's annual support of the Mission Arlington Christmas Store.

When Cat is not working or volunteering, she can be found crafting with her CPAs Craft Group or relaxing at home with her cat, Buck.

## Alex Serman

Managing Director of Wealth  
First Rate, Inc.

Alex Serman has been with First Rate for over six years, starting out as an intern in college and moving up to become an analyst, service manager, and now managing director. His focus is to maintain and grow relationships with firms in the bank/trust market of \$10 billion AUM and above. This includes overseeing the strategic operations of First Rate's support team and growing new relationships with clients and partners.



His main involvement in his community has been with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Tarrant County where he serves on the Club Council. This includes supporting and attending several events throughout the year, interacting with club members, and he serves on the Par for

the Kids golf tournament committee. He also helped select the organization to receive a grant from First Rate to support its Feeding the Future and Culinary Connection programs.

When he is not working, he spends a lot of time with his fiancé and heeler puppy. They enjoy going to Stars games, watching football, visiting whiskey distilleries and breweries across Texas, and spending time with family.

## Charletra Sharp

Director for Economic Mobility  
Center for Transforming Lives

Charletra Sharp joined the Center for Transforming Lives family in 2019 to assist with developing a concept that will increase economic mobility opportunities in Tarrant County neighborhoods that have concentrated poverty and experience the greatest disparities. As Director for Economic Mobility, she oversees a team that provides financial health tools, career readiness services, and business support resources designed to support income-constrained women with young children.



Charletra's community involvement in Arlington has included serving on the original City of Arlington Unity Council, participating in Leadership Arlington, serving on the United Way of Tarrant County-Arlington Steering Committee,

supporting her neighborhood community association, assisting her church with its community-based nonprofit, and participating in several nonprofit, City, and AISD focus groups. She and her husband own Cup o' Vibes, a specialty craft coffee bar in south Arlington where their mantra is "Brewing Community. Serving Culture." They have a four year old who, she says, "is committed to crossing all boundaries and exploring all that we teach him to avoid!"

## Girish Suresh Shelke

Director of Research  
Helping Restore Ability

Girish Suresh Shelke says he is honored to work with Helping Restore Ability as Chief Research Officer. As a Disability Health Inequities Scientist, he is passionate about healthcare equality among those with disabilities, especially those served through Medicaid services. Through this work, he has partnered with the University of Notre Dame, Amerigroup, CIGNA, Superior, and AETNA to save healthcare costs by improving patient's overall healthcare outcomes.



In the last three years, these projects have significantly reduced the number of Emergency Room visits and inpatient days and saved taxpayers over \$11.5million. While managing these projects, Girish received his post-doctoral study in Public Oral Health so that he could expand his work to also

cover oral health care, a top-five concern for those with disabilities.

He is applying for grants to assist in developing oral health equipment that will help patients with special needs brush their teeth and maintain regular oral health hygiene.

Outside of his work passion, Girish loves to spend time with family and in studying the history of King Chhatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosale.

## Drew T. Smith

Owner  
Lone Star Drone

Drew Smith is the founder and owner of Lone Star Drone, a company that uses cutting-edge drones, professional software, and highly experienced pilots to help clients meet their photography, surveying, and filming needs.

During an Army deployment, Drew set out to create a company that would give veterans jobs. Lone Star Drone has realized that mission. When Drew founded the company, the idea was to utilize the skills fellow veterans possessed to build an advanced drone company that put the mission of the client first.



The company now provides the most advanced survey and mapping, inspection, and aerial engineering services possible. It also develops cutting-edge drones for use by the law enforcement

community. Under Drew's direction, the company was awarded the 2022 Veteran Owned Business of the Year by the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

Drew takes no greater pride in life than he does in his family. With wife Angie, he has three children, Vincent, Dominic, and Sophia. Through his faith, community service, and charity, and as a Rotarian, Drew continues to live in service of others.

## Colton C. Strawser, Ph.D.

President  
Colton Strawser Consulting

Dr. Colton Strawser is a nonprofit and philanthropic consultant and the President of Colton Strawser Consulting – a consulting firm that works with mission-driven organizations to develop the data, funding, and leadership skills necessary to create change.

Dr. Strawser's personal and professional mission is empowering organizations to create change®, and he has received numerous awards in recognition of his academic, professional, and personal contributions to the nonprofit sector.

As a nonprofit scholar and community champion, Dr. Strawser studies community philanthropy and works to engage with the local nonprofit sector to increase capacity and efficiency.

Locally, Dr. Strawser serves on the leadership team of the DFW Nonprofit Resource Group – an organization of mission-friendly business professionals that support the nonprofit sector.

In addition, he is currently leading a volunteer effort to produce a report on the state of nonprofits and philanthropy in the mid-cities that will be released in Summer 2023.



## Yaman Subei

Chief Executive Officer  
Urgentology Care

**Y**aman Subei is the founder and CEO of a multi-specialty healthcare group. In 2018, he established Urgentology Care, a walk-in urgent care offering acute medical services and occupational medicine. In 2020, he co-founded Cure Allergy Clinic, an Allergy, Asthma, and Weight Loss clinic. In 2021, he founded Glo

& Glam – MedSpa & Skincare, an aesthetics practice offering non-surgical cosmetic procedures from injectables (dermal fillers and neurotoxins) to facials, PRP, and hormone therapy.

Yaman's famous words to his team are "we must provide a patient 'EXPERIENCE, not a service". His principle is to focus on the little things that elevate patients' experience. Yaman holds three CLC memberships at the Greater Arlington Chamber

of Commerce and serves as the Vice Chair of the Asian Business Council. He has contributed tremendously to efforts in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. Urgentology Care was among the first practices to offer drive-through testing, serving over 20 thousand patients. Yaman also volunteers time and donations to HEB ISD, AISD, SAMS, and 6Stones. When not working, Yaman loves traveling with his family and experiencing world cultures.



## Suzanne W. Taylor

Chief of Staff/External Relations  
Graham Associates, Inc.

**S**uzanne W. Taylor serves as Chief of Staff and External Relations at Graham Associates, Inc., a civil engineering and consulting firm in Arlington and Fort Worth. In that role she has coordinated many company projects, including the National Medal of Honor Museum, WJ Boaz Road in Fort Worth, Downtown

Mansfield Redevelopment projects, and more. She also assists on the business side of the firm through marketing, recruiting/hiring, and client/employee relations.



She has served on the Levitt Pavilion Board, Leadership Arlington Class of 2017, the AISD Education Foundation, PTA in AISD, initiatives to bring the National Medal of Honor Museum to Arlington, and on numerous campaigns in the

community for Mayoral, City Council and AISD Board candidates. She has served as the Co-Chair of the Dreammakers (Grant Recipient) Event for the AISD Education Foundation and was on the search committee for the director.

She and her husband love spending time with their children Kate and Wade and are excited to welcome their third child this month. They are invested in First Baptist Church Arlington and love sharing the name of Jesus.

## Erica L. Thompson, Esq.

Manager, Office of Business Diversity  
City of Arlington

**A** life-long Arlington resident, attorney Erica L. Thompson has worked for the City of Arlington as the Manager of the Office of Business Diversity since 2021. The department was established to promote the inclusion and growth of Minority and Women-Owned Businesses in all phases of the City's procurement process.

Erica is currently enrolled at Loyola University-Chicago, seeking an LLM (Master of Law) in Enterprise Risk Management, Contracts & Compliance. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she serves her community through volunteerism, mentorship and legal advocacy. She also teaches and mentors students in the art of dance at Step By Step Dance Studio. As a

member of the United Way Steering Committee, she served on the grant review committee. She was in Leadership Arlington's Class of 2018, and she volunteers with the Arlington-Mansfield Area YMCA, Arlington Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, and various city campaigns and community celebration events.

In her spare time, Erica enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with close family and friends.



## Lisa Ward, MBA

Financial Advisor  
Timberlake Financial Group

**L**isa Ward, MBA, brought a new service to Timberlake Financial Group. As an advisor she meets with clients on a monthly basis to review financial concerns, including debt management, major purchase planning, life transition planning, cash-flow management, employee benefit review, investment management,

retirement savings plans, college savings plans, risk management, and estate planning.

"I essentially do really complicated word problems for a living and love it!" she says.

She is on the Dance Theatre of Arlington board and is Co-Chair for the Maverick Women Behind the Wheel for the Maverick Region Porsche Club of America. She recently completed her fifth and final year on the Greater Arlington Chamber of

Commerce Young Professionals Advisory Council, where, as Chair, she helped create the chamber's first ever mentorship program, IMPACT. She is also involved with the Girl Scouts, facilitating financial literacy badges for Tarrant County troops during cookie season.

Outside the office she loves to hone her baking and gardening skills, sharing the victories of both endeavors with family and friends around the dinner table.

