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twenty under forty
2013

20 people
under **40**
who make a
difference in
Central Illinois



The Business Journal of MidCentral Illinois is proud to present this annual special publication to honor members of our community who make a difference in many ways. We realize it takes a special combination of individuals to make a difference in any community, but we wanted to take this opportunity to honor those under the age of 40 who are making a difference.

The process wasn't easy. We asked for nominations from the community and received an overwhelming response.

Each nominee was very impressive, and our selection committee had the daunting task of narrowing the field to 20.

These selected individuals represent the best our community has to offer. From education, nonprofit, health care and more, our selections are from diverse backgrounds and offer many talents.

Each 20 Under 40 has a unique story and offers his or her wisdom and advice on what it takes to be successful. You'll read about what they do, what they like about the community, what they still hope to accomplish and more.

We hope you enjoy reading about these special individuals. Their profiles also can be found online at our website, www.thebusiness-journal.com.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those community members who were a part of the selection committee. We appreciate your hard work.

For those of you who wish to nominate someone next year, look for our call for nominations in March 2014 •

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Carl Draper

Age: 39

Family: Single with no children.

Current position/responsibilities:

President of the Decatur Trades & Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO) and a switchman for Norfolk Southern Corp. by night. As president of the assembly, I have the honor of coordinating community outreach and political activities for more than 13,000 working men and women in Macon County.

What do you like best about what you do?

Being a part of a diverse group who put principles before personalities.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

My friends and family are here.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I think improving our schools is a must. Not only to attract young families, but to grow our future citizens, leaders and neighbors.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My grandfather, Carl A. Draper. We were inseparable while I was growing up. I think I inherited many of his characteristics — good and bad.

What you still hope to accomplish:

Strengthen and expand the labor movement in our community, giving every

“I think improving our schools is a must. Not only to attract young families, but to grow our future citizens, leaders and neighbors.”

worker the power and will to establish equitable employment conditions.

Your favorite stress reliever:

As of late, mowing the grass for hours on end.

Your favorite movie:

“The Searchers”

Your favorite book:

Too difficult. Lately I’ve been reading collected essays and short stories: Mencken, Royko, Hitchens, Hemingway, Carver, etc.

Quote to live by:

“There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask why? I dream things that never were, and ask why not?” — George Bernard Shaw

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

Hemingway’s Nick Adams. Endless fishing adventures.



“Decatur is, and always has been, home for me and being close to family is paramount.”

Wes Heinkel

Age: 27

Family: Denny and Debbie (parents), Jaime Heinkel Wenberg and Natalie Heinkel McCarthy (sisters).

Current Position/Responsibilities:

General manager of Heinkel's Packing Co. Responsibilities include buying, pricing, budgeting, marketing, production planning, strategic planning and business expansion.

What do you like best about what you do?

Strategic planning and marketing is a great outlet for my more creative proclivities. I feel like the vehicle for my father's products to reach a wider audience. Heinkel's is a unique and dynamic entity. It takes a lot of knowledge, hard work, and true grit to create a wiener, to manage anhydrous ammonia refrigeration, blast freezers, delivery trucks, heavy machinery with a lot of moving parts, boxing and packaging, under a massive regulatory regime (the U.S. Department of Agriculture). We couldn't do it all without great employees. We produce about 50 different products, so there is

never a dull moment. I like that.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

Decatur is, and always has been, home for me and being close to family is paramount. I like my morning commute from my new house in South Shores snaking along the lake as the sun rises over Lake Decatur. Having lived in Pittsburgh, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and New York City, having a 10-minute commute is a wonderful advantage.

What should the community be doing to attract more young professionals to live and work in the Decatur area?

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. It's a nice place to live if you have a job.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why?

My father is a man of great humility and character, a talented meat chemist, and a determined worker. I've seen him put guys in their prime and half his age to shame out in production at Heinkel's where work is hard, physical and

mentally overwhelming. He has a unique way of teaching without saying a word. I have benefited immeasurably from his example.

My mother has always believed in my abilities and that has given me great confidence. I get my scrappiness from her — she is not an enemy you want to have, best to have her on your side. Most people probably don't know that about her. She's a fighter. She always says “just go for it!” Without her encouragement there never would have been a Heinkel's Hot Dog Eating Contest.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

Finish Edward Gibbon's seminal work “Decline and Fall” and learn how to play the cello. I would like to grow Heinkel's incrementally to a major regional player and hopefully beyond. Several products could sell on a national level. They are that good!

Your favorite stress reliever:

Family, Johnnie Walker, fishing, golfing, movies, books, St. Louis Cardinals, a couple good friends.

Your favorite movie:

“Gangs of New York,” “The Big Lebowski” and “No Country for Old

Men.”

Your favorite book:

It's a tie. “Vom Kriege” (aka “On War”) by Carl Von Clausewitz had a profound effect on the way I perceive the world strategically. “On the Peloponnesian War” by Thucydides gave me a reflective understanding of fear, honor and political interest in societies. As for fiction, it would be the “Border Trilogy” by Cormac McCarthy.

Quote to live by:

“Take the Hill.”

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

Rorschach in “The Watchmen.” Rorschach is a complicated character but I always admired his honesty about the realities within himself and, more importantly, the realities of this world. There are differing opinions, but in the end, I believe Rorschach dies for the truth, unable to live a lie. His opinions, way of life, and demeanor are castigated as insane throughout the graphic novel but I tend to view them as politically incorrect. Presently, this country could use some politically incorrect voices however measured or unmeasured. “Never compromise. Not even in the face of Armageddon.”



“I like that Decatur has a small-town feel with people who take pride in the community. It’s a city with a lot to offer but has the feel of a smaller community.”

Jason Queen

Age: 39

Family:

Tricia (wife), Alyssa (daughter), Ian (son) and Carly (dog). The arrival of another son is expected soon.

Current position/responsibilities:

Vice president of Wallender-Dedman Printing Inc. and William Street Press.

What do you like best about what you do?

Every day has a new challenge. The printing industry is fast paced and you have to react and meet deadlines quickly.

What do you like best about working in the community?

I like that Decatur has a small-town feel with people who take pride in the community. It’s a city with a lot to offer but has the feel of a smaller community.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the area?

They need to market our community in a more positive way. Decatur has lost a lot of big employers in recent years and that’s what people remember. They need to focus their marketing efforts on the positives of the businesses that are growing and the new attractions in our community.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My parents. They instilled in me honesty and the value of hard work. The way they lived their life I learned that no matter what, family comes first.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

Professionally, I want to continue to grow our business. We recently purchased William Street Press which has added a different niche’ to our business. We are now in the digital world of printing, which has proven to be a strong market. I also want to expand our offset printing side of the business. We currently run two shifts and I would like to see that become three in the near future.

Your favorite stress reliever:

I enjoy playing golf. The golf course is a great place to escape and relax for a few hours. I also enjoy watching the kids in their activities. It makes me proud as a father to watch them succeed at what they enjoy.

Your favorite movie:

“The Rookie” with Dennis Quaid. It teaches you that you are never too old to chase your dreams.

Your favorite book:

“Who Moved My Cheese” by Spencer Johnson

Quote to live by:

“Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t — you’re right.”

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

I would be Andy Griffith. He displayed every quality that is great in a person. He was a leader, a hard worker, a great family man, and always looked for the best in everyone. His character is how I try to approach my life.



“I enjoy the small-town feel in a larger community. Decatur is truly a blessed community that has people who care for one another and the resource to help the ones in the community when the help is needed.”

Reed Sullivan

Age: 25

Family:

Joe and Debbie (parents) and Luke, Drew and Beau (brothers).

Current position/responsibilities:

Estimator and office manager for Interior Specialty Construction Inc. Working for your family business, the responsibilities are ever changing. You do what you have to get the job done. I estimate jobs, review accounting, invoicing, outside sales and assist in operations and manpower, among other things.

What do you like best about what you do?

I enjoy helping companies with their construction projects and how they want to transform a space into a more usable space or doing a complete remodel to create their dream space. It is very rewarding when the job is complete and everything came together to achieve the desired design for the owner.

What you do like best about working or living in the community?

I enjoy the small-town feel in a larger community. Decatur is truly a blessed community that has people who care for one another and the resource to help the

ones in the community when the help is needed. Decatur is also blessed with a lot of great companies and hospitals, which not all communities the size of Decatur can say.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I think Decatur has taken some great steps in keeping people around and attracting more people with the downtown renovations and now the construction of the Nelson Park property. I do think focusing on family is key. Decatur has a lot to offer when raising a family and I feel a focus on young families and things that families can do together would be great for the community. One key factor here would be job creation for students right out of college.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My parents have been there for everything — from sporting events to graduations — for me and my brothers. Having a strong parental influence in any kid’s life is huge, but I would have to say I have the best parents anyone could ask for. I would also have to say my brothers and extended family have played a large role, too. Without any of them I would not be where I am today, so I want to thank all of them.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

Whatever God has in store for me. Whether that is

continuing working for the family business or switching career paths in the future. I want to follow His will for my life, but I do want to get married and have children someday.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Golf, live music

Your favorite movie:

“Remember the Titans” or “The Miracle.”

Your favorite book:

“Coming Back Stronger” by Drew Brees

Quote to live by:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” — Jeremiah 29:11

“I have failed over and over again and that is why I succeed.” — Michael Jordan

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

I would have to say Superman or Batman, because of the role they play in making the community safer and helping out. It is my goal to be able to help people in need and have a community that is known for helping one another and I believe that is what we have here in Decatur and the surrounding areas.

Kim Fields

Age: 32

Family: Married to Ray Fields. Doug and Colleen Penny (parents) and Ian Penny (brother).

Current position/responsibilities:

I'm a Papa Murphy's Pizza franchisee. My responsibility is to give back to our community using various types of Papa Murphy's fundraising programs.

What do you like best about what you do?

I enjoy working with people who are enthusiastic and passionate about their cause.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

I love to see our community band together when others are in need as seen in the WSOY Food Drive and in the latest tornado fundraising efforts.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I think it does a great job. The parks are

“I love to see our community band together when others are in need as seen in the WSOY Food Drive and the latest tornado fundraising efforts.”



Photo by Jime Bowling

beautiful and there are so many local family events happening all the time. Just keep it up!

The people who have had the biggest influence on you and why:

My grandmother. She had such a kind heart, and she worked her fingers to the bone. She started her own landscaping business in Zimbabwe where entrepreneurs don't typically flourish.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

I would really like to visit all Seven Wonders of the World.

Your favorite stress reliever:

I love photography and gardening. I find both very relaxing.

Your favorite movie:

“The Shawshank Redemption”

Your favorite book:

“How to Stop Worrying and Start Living” by Dale Carnegie

Quote to live by:

“Life is too short, grudges are a waste of perfect happiness, laugh when you can, apologize when you should and let go of what you can't change. Love deeply and forgive quickly, take chances, give

everything and have no regrets. Life is too short to be unhappy. You have to take the good with the bad, smile when you're sad, love what you got and always remember what you had, always forgive but never forget, learn from your mistakes but never regret, people change, and things go wrong but always remember LIFE GOES ON.”

Your favorite movie:

I think it would probably be Mary Poppins. She seems to have it together. She can sing (which I'm not very good at, but I love to do it), dance and she's a good leader. She's perfect in every way.



Blake E. Wallace

Age: 27

Family:

My beautiful wife, Kendall, and our cantankerous Maltese puppy, Coltrane.

Current position/responsibilities:

I'm a personal banker at Busey Bank. I help clients manage their assets — including mortgages, savings accounts, checking and money market accounts, certificates of deposit, as well as any other lending needs they may have. My top duty is doing what's best for the customer, ensuring that they're in the best possible position to attain and maintain financial stability.

What you do like best about what you do?

The best thing about what I do is interacting with so many different people on a daily basis. I've met so many nice people who all have so many interesting stories to tell. Generally, people don't entrust just anyone with their finances without first getting to know them. This aspect of my job is definitely the most gratifying.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

As a born and raised resident of Decatur, the best thing about working and living here is the small-town feel of the community. It seems as if everyone knows everyone. There are people who knew my parents or knew me when I was an infant that I now have the privilege of helping at the bank. I've spent my entire life here so I take immense pride in the volunteer

work that I do because it's benefiting the only community I've ever known. It's a uniquely benign situation because the work that you put forth in your own community not only improves the lives of others, but for you, too, if you consider yourself a part of the community. It's a win-win.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

If the community's intent is to attract more young people to live and work here, the people of the community need to try their best to find out what young people are passionate and enthusiastic about. Once that's determined, the people of the community need to try their best to put things in place to cater to those passions. I'm certain that every community would like a stronger youth presence, but I'm not too sure if every community is ready to actively seek out what interests young people and freely cater to those interests. It may take a fair amount of compromise and deviation from the status quo.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

Maybe it's indecisiveness at work here, but I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the two people who had the biggest influence on me. My mother, Karen, always pushed me to work hard and continue to pursue higher education and philanthropy. My mother always stressed the importance of family and the community is an extension of my family. My wife, Kendall, also had a tremendous influence on me by showing me what true love looks and feels like. Her

gentle spirit and compassion for helping the people of our community is something that I try my best to implement into my day-to-day interactions with every person I come across in life. I wouldn't be where I am today without either of them.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

The sky is the limit, honestly. Emancipated Mindstate Foundation is a nonprofit organization that my colleague A.D. Carson and I created that will be donating books and materials to local schools, focusing on multicultural themes, topics and authors. In addition to the fundraisers we've held thus far, my dream would be to grow the organization to the point where we'd be able to provide substantial scholarships to Decatur's youth. Making college graduation a reality for someone who didn't believe it to be an option would be the ultimate reward.

Your favorite stress reliever:

My top stress reliever is listening to and producing music. When my favorite music is blaring through my noise-cancelling headphones, nothing else in the world really matters. It's just me, the music and my thoughts.

Your favorite movie:

My favorite film is Spike Lee's "Malcolm X," by far. It's inspirational, it's brutally honest, it's entertaining, it's educational, and above all, it forces a dialogue about a period in American history that many people aren't comfortable talking about. I hold it in such high regard because of its honesty and the way it details Malcolm's journey from an almost certain statistic to one of the most influential figures America has ever seen. Not to mention, Denzel Washington turned in one of the most impressive acting displays in the history of cinema.

Your favorite book:

I'd have to say it's a tie between "The Spook Who Sat by the Door" by Sam Greenlee and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Malcolm X with Alex Haley. They're both excellent reads and both have played parts in shaping me into the person I am today.

Quote to live by:

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." — James Baldwin, "The Fire Next Time."

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

This is easy. I'd be Michael Jackson in the "Thriller" video, and for a multitude of reasons. One; I'd be Michael Jackson. Two; I'd be a zombie. Three; I'd have a red and black leather jacket with zippers. And Four; I'd be the leader of a zombie resistance hell-bent on tormenting humankind by way of synchronized dancing. And there you have it.

Michael Kevin Breheny

Age: 25

Family: Kevin and Susan (parents), Megan and Molly (sisters), Matt Bennett (brother-in-law) and Elizabeth Lynn Bennett (niece).

Current position/responsibilities: Commercial insurance and surety bond producer for J.L. Hubbard Insurance & Bonds.

What do you like best about what you do?

I am definitely a people person so my job is always new and exciting for me. I am constantly meeting with new people everyday, primarily business owners. What is always interesting to me is getting to sit down as a 25-year-old and listen to owners of large and small companies explain to me how they have gotten to where they are today and teach me about how their business operates. Every day is something new and I really enjoy waking up knowing that I get to experience that.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

Decatur is a great community because of the people who live in it. I enjoy being able to go to a business function, or even just out to eat or to the golf course, and more times than not you are going to run into someone you know when you get there. Decatur is truly a giving community that supports any cause that's put in front of it. There are so many things to learn from so many giving leaders in our community.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I believe as long as Decatur keeps moving forward and progressing with things like the new downtown streetscape and the lakefront project, Decatur will be just as attractive to a young person as any of the other

surrounding communities.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

I have to cheat a bit here and pick two, my mom and dad. There is just no way that I could pick one over the other. Both have had such a large impact in my life in the working world and in our family's life. From teaching me about faith, the importance of putting others first and the meaning of working hard to achieve what you want, I cannot thank them enough for how they have influenced me for the past 25 years. If I can model my life like those two and stick to that, I know I will be just fine.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

I saw an Army commercial once that said "If someone were to write a book on your life would anyone want to read it?" I try to constantly keep that as a reminder in the back of my head to keep things interesting in my life and know that you only live once, so make the most out of it. Also, try your best to impact as many lives as possible for the better, no matter how you go about doing it. Lastly, and probably most importantly, is to be as successful as I can at what I do and raise a family like the one I was brought up in.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Outside of work I definitely enjoy getting out on the golf course as much as possible with my friends to relieve a little stress. Although that sport sometimes causes more stress than you can even imagine. Besides that I enjoy making trips down to St. Louis to see

my college friends and catch up on what is new in their lives.

Your favorite movie: "Gladiator"

Your favorite book:

"Decision Point" by George W. Bush. Whether you agree or disagree with the president's two terms in office, this book was extremely fascinating to me. The book tells about the day-to-day

decisions and obstacles President Bush had to deal with, both personally and politically, to run a nation in one of the most pivotal times in its history, immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Quote to live by: "If you never slow down, you never get old."



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Congratulations to Michael Breheny, Account Executive for being recognized as one of Macon Country's 20 Under 40.



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“I hope to continue learning and growing as an attorney and advancing in my career as a prosecutor to better serve this community and victims of abuse.”

Mary E. Koll

Age: 29

Family: I've been married to my wonderful husband, Micah, for seven years. We have one child, our son Thomas, who will turn 1 in July. And our family wouldn't be complete without our dog Scout, who we adopted from the Humane Society of Decatur and Macon County shortly after relocating to Decatur in 2010.

Current position/responsibilities:

I am a felony prosecutor and director of the Domestic Violence Unit at the Macon County State's Attorney's Office, so I spend the majority of my time working on felony cases involving spousal abuse, dating violence and child physical abuse. I am also assigned to the newly formed Elderly Victim's Crime Unit, and assist with the prosecution of other violent crimes, including sexual assaults and homicides.

What do you like best about what you do?

It is an incredible privilege to have a job that allows me to play a small role in the process of holding violent criminals accountable for their actions, protecting victims and the community from violent offenders, and seeking justice on behalf of victims of crime. I am a former social worker who attended law school with the goal of becoming a prosecutor and working with victims of violent crime, so this is truly my dream job. I also get to work every day alongside an amazing and dedicated group of attorneys, investigators, advocates and support staff.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

As a prosecutor, Macon County is a great community to work in because of our fantastic law enforcement agencies and numerous resources for victims of crime, including DOVE Inc., Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center, CHELP and the Child Advocacy Center. Outside of work, my husband and I appreciate the low cost of living, good restaurants and relaxed atmosphere that Decatur has to offer.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

Local organizations need to start by listing job openings outside colleges and universities. I found out about the job opening at the Macon County State's Attorney's Office because it was posted on the University of Illinois College of Law job listings. We had never even considered moving to Decatur until I was offered that position, but once we learned of the affordable housing prices and other benefits of this community, we immediately bought a house, moved here and settled in.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

I am blessed to have an amazing husband, wonderful family, and close friends and mentors, but the person who has had the greatest influence on my life is my son, Tommy. He makes me want to be a better person every day, and inspires me to do everything I can to make the world a better, safer and more peaceful place for him to grow up.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

Too much to possibly list here, but in a nutshell, I hope to continue learning and growing as an attorney and advancing in my career as a prosecutor to better serve this community and victims of abuse.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Relaxing in my pajamas in front of the TV with my husband after a long day of work, playing on the floor or cuddling with my little boy and reading in bed.

Your favorite movie: I can't choose a favorite, but the 2011 movie "Bernie" is one of the best I've seen recently. It is both funny and sad, is based on a true story and deals with some interesting legal issues.

Your favorite book: Again, I could not possibly choose one, but in the last year the book that has impacted me the most is "The Milk Memos: How Real Moms Learned to Mix Business with Babies-and How You Can, Too." I highly recommend this book to all new moms about to embark on the adventure of working motherhood.

Quote to live by: I absolutely love Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's simple response during a recent interview to a question regarding the secret to a happy life: "Work worth doing." I am so lucky to have "work worth doing," both in my career and in my most important job as a mom.

“I love teaching dance to all my kids. It is the most awesome feeling to go to “work” and it is your hobby and what you absolutely love to do.”



Jeana (Nicole) Griffiths

Age: 28

Family:

I married Matt Griffiths last month. I have a 6-year-old daughter, Bella. Jay and Rex Nicole are my parents and I have four sisters and one brother. All of them are married and have 17 kids between, including twins that arrived last month. I have a huge family.

Current position/responsibilities:

I own Steps Dance Complex, and I do everything necessary to keep Steps going.

What do you like best about what you do?

I love teaching dance to all my kids. It is the most awesome feeling to go to “work” and it is your hobby and what you absolutely love to do.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

I really like the small-town feel of Decatur and there are so many great opportunities as well.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I think Decatur is doing a great job with all the updates downtown.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My mom and dad started me in dance class at age 2, and I haven't stopped dancing since. They have been by my side

every step of the way with my studio. They had a huge impact on the start of Steps.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

I hope to make Steps bigger and better each year and share my love for dance with all my kids.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Crossfit

Your favorite movie:

“Legally Blonde” and “Sweet Home Alabama”

Quote to live by:

I love the quote, “Life’s not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
*Congratulations
to Jeana*

for being named one of the community's

20 Under 40

From your Mom, Dad, & Entire Family



“Arts and nature – Decatur really has some of the best of both.”

Claire Taylor

Age: 27

Family:

Married to Andrew.

Current position/responsibilities:

Quality manager at EPL Bio Analytical Services. I'm in charge of implementing and running our ISO 17025 (an international standard for laboratories) quality management system. I am also the project manager for evaluating, purchasing and implementing a Laboratory Information Management System.

What do you like best about what you do?

I enjoy the variety. Quality touches every aspect of an organization and I like learning about everybody's processes. I also feel like I help make a difference whenever I catch something that needs to be corrected, or better yet, help stop it before that happens.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

Arts and nature – Decatur really has some of the best of both.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area:

Advertise better about what we already have to offer: great parks and nature areas, the lake, good restaurants, family events, lots of live music/art and opportunities to be creative or athletic at an amateur level. I have absolutely no idea what people are talking about when they say that there's nothing to do in Decatur. Continue to develop the nightlife hotspots that are growing in the Oakwood and downtown areas. Support and improve our public schools. Decatur is a great place to raise a family but the reputation of our schools is an issue. I was served exceptionally well by Decatur public schools and would like that experience to be shared by everyone that goes through the system.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My parents. My dad's empathy and inclusiveness toward anyone that he meets pushes me to really think about how I treat those around me. My mom has the strongest work ethic I know. In all aspects of her life, she is the person who steps up to the plate when something important needs to get done.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

I have been working more and more with computers, so I'm looking forward to developing those skills further and seeing where that takes my career. I would also like to get my Spanish to a point where I can actually

converse comfortably or enjoy a movie in a second language, and find a better work/life balance – hopefully before I start a family!

Your favorite stress reliever:

Playing music — preferably with my family. I play in a woodwind trio that includes my mom, while my brothers, dad, and I get together to form a jazz combo as often as possible. I'm a woodwind specialist and have performed with several community groups, including the Decatur Municipal Band, Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra, Second Wind Flute Choir and Little Theatre-On the Square. I also love volunteering at the Macon County Conservation District.

Your favorite movie:

“Stranger than Fiction”

Your favorite book:

“The Hobbit”

Quote to live by:

“Service is the rent you pay for a room on this earth.”

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

The Greek goddess Athena. She is a strong warrior but prefers to settle conflicts with reason rather than violence. The strength to do what is required coupled with the wisdom to find the solution that causes the least pain to all parties. Definitely qualities I would like to have.

“I believe that we need to showcase opportunities for young people to participate in the community so they can feel a sense of connectedness.”



Michael Blaine Stewart

Age: 32

Family:

Leroy Stewart (dad, deceased), Betty Stewart (mother), Melinda Morgan (sister), Tony and Charlie Stewart (brothers).

Current position/responsibilities:

Manager of Decatur Memorial Hospital Wellness Center and Sports Enhancement. I manage a staff of professionals that provide medical services for health and fitness, nutrition and sports enhancement.

What do you like best about what you do?

The opportunity to help and inspire both the clientele and our staff in reaching their goals and changing their lives for the better.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

Being able to organize events that bring the

community together and give back to the community that has given me so much. I enjoy the opportunity to work with the student athletes and coach at my alma mater.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I believe that we need to showcase opportunities for young people to participate in the community so they can feel a sense of connectedness.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My father has always been a major influence in my life. Following his death, I realized that I had to give 100 percent in everything I do so that I can be the type of man he expected me to be — a man of character, generosity and commitment.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

To be better every day and use my gifts and abilities to help other people.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Training and lifting weights.

Your favorite movie: The latest “Dark Knight” Trilogy.

Your favorite book: “Never Die Easy: The Autobiography of Walter Payton”

Quote to live by: “Every failure made me more confident. Because I wanted even more to achieve things, as revenge. To show that I could.” — Roman Polanski

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why? “Tombstone.” Doc Holliday was willing to sacrifice anything and everything because of his uncompromising loyalty and love for his friends.



“I love those moments when people enthusiastically tell me their story about how an article or event listing in Thrive opened their eyes to something exciting they never knew existed in the Decatur area. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.”

Submitted picture

Katrina (Kat) Smalley

Age: 33

Family:

I have three brothers, one sister, and a whole slew of nieces/nephews and great nieces/nephews. I have a partner of over 10 years and together we have three medium-sized mutts with awesome personalities, plus one instigative cat that gets them all in trouble on a daily basis.

Current position/responsibilities:

I am the owner and publisher of the Thrive Entertainment Guide and also work as a creative marketing specialist at Richland Community College. At Thrive, I focus on maintaining the vision for our magazine, ad sales, completing the layout and design work and managing my awesome team of professionals. In my role at Richland, I design marketing collateral and collaborate with the entire marketing team to develop new marketing initiatives to promote our institution.

What do you like best about what you do?

I love those moments when people enthusiastically tell me their story about how an article or event listing in Thrive opened their eyes to something exciting they never knew existed in the Decatur area. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.

What you like best about working or living in the community:

We are fortunate to have an abundance of passionate and generous people. They come in all forms, including

leaders, volunteers and entrepreneurs. It's the kind of place where we can identify a challenge, develop a solution and get things done and I'm proud to live and serve among so many great people.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

I believe it will take a holistic approach and we already have momentum. We have so many people and organizations already working to improve upon our strengths and overcome our challenges so we can make our city a better place to live. The key will be helping each other by sharing knowledge and resources to reach our goals together as a community. I also believe we would greatly benefit from developing and consistently communicating a strong, unified brand that conveys our unique personality as a community to target groups such as young professionals.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

I often reflect on how I became the person I am today and am thankful for what I learned from my parents. My mother was a constant voice of the “why’s”. “Do you know why we do it this way?” Learning to be analytical has driven my love of learning and understanding things at a deeper level. I was always fascinated by the work that my father did as an architect and general contractor. I had the opportunity to go to work with him as young as five years old and learned the importance of traits like craftsmanship, teamwork, and having pride in what you do. After working until sundown he would make time for

play, too. It's amazing what you can learn from a game of ping-pong! There's a time for offense and there's a time for defense. There are times to take advantages of opportunities and there are times to wait for the right one. These experiences allow me to see the world the way I do, and continue to grow and be inspired by great people and their abilities and accomplishments.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

I hope to overcome my fear of public speaking and go on to accomplish many things I've yet to dream up.

Your favorite stress reliever:

I love practicing the art of Bonsai and I'm also a TED Talk junkie. Really, anything that gets me outside and thinking big works to relieve my stress.

Your favorite movie: “A League of Their Own”

Your favorite book: “The Fountainhead” by Ayn Rand

Quote to live by:

“Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.” — W. Clement Stone

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why? Let's go with a cartoon character: Bugs Bunny. He's creative, clever and likable. He's never the aggressor and may get knocked down occasionally, but when faced with a challenge he will persevere and rise to the challenge.



Josh Rohrscheib

Age: 33

Family:

Tina Pressley (mother), Randall Rohrscheib (father), Alan and Kari Pressley (brother and sister-in-law), Katherine Rohrscheib (sister), two inspiring grandmothers (Fern Davis and Mary Rohrscheib) and in a few months, I'm very excited about becoming an uncle.

Current position/responsibilities:

Attorney and counselor at law, Rohrscheib Law Office. My firm is a boutique practice, providing a high-level of care to carefully chosen clients and causes. I represent individuals, injured people, families, community groups and small to mid-sized businesses.

What do you like best about what you do?

I get to help people and solve problems. I enjoy the intellectual challenges of a varied practice. And I love working with passionate local advocates to improve our community.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

One of my mentors likes to say, "Decatur is the biggest small town in America." In many ways, we have small-town values and connectedness to one another. Upon returning home, I took comfort in the goodness of our people and their optimism and commitment to our community. We have a welcoming city with many champions who have a collective desire to collaborate to improve our community.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

This is a time of community renewal and our momentum is palpable. Young people are engaging and investing in our community. There is a growing wave of enthusiasm and optimism, fueled by major projects such as the downtown renovation and lakefront development

and community efforts such as Grow Decatur, Decatur Co-Creators, the Mural Project, the Cash Mob and Re:Decatur. We have much to market if city leaders have the vision to seize the moment and invest in a comprehensive rebranding and marketing campaign. The city should hire a top-flight marketing director. We have much to be proud of, but lack a consistent and clarion

"I get to help people and solve problems. I enjoy the intellectual challenges of a varied practice. And I love working with passionate local advocates to improve our community."

message and messenger. With a relatively small investment, we could be much better positioned to attract and retain young people, entrepreneurs and major employers.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My mother, Tina Pressley, is a constant and unwavering source of enthusiasm, energy and strength. She has powered through many challenges with joy, not least of which were raising my brother and I largely on her own, and overwhelmed every obstacle with her optimism and resilience. She is gracious and uplifting, forgiving of my many faults, always positive, always looking forward and always good company.

My grandpa, Gene Rohrscheib, will always be my hero. He was a deeply warm, patient and kind man who lived with absolute integrity. He was a farmer, a veteran, a beekeeper, a barnyard mechanic and an adoring champion of his family. Grandpa loved learning, inventing and

discovering. He took delight in his friends, family and the simple pleasures of life. I hope to increasingly live and treat others as he did. I miss him every day.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

I hope to become a husband and a father (ideally, in that order). I would also like to build an epic tree house and bring a laser tag coliseum to Decatur.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Playing five-minute speed-chess with the Decatur Chess Club and often losing to Decatur's child prodigy, eight-year-old Aydin Turgut (who is already a two-time national champion). Join us for a game on Tuesday nights at Doherty's Pub and Pins.

Your favorite movie:

"Casablanca." This film is simply perfect.

Your favorite book:

"All the King's Men" by Robert Penn Warren. Written with elegance and vitality, it's a study of power and politics, of goodness and sin, of possibility, and the ever-present tension between pragmatism and idealism. The book is a rough portrait of the colorful Huey Long, who makes Rod Blagojevich look like an Eagle Scout. Poetry and prose wrestle from cover to cover, and every page is captivating.

Quote to live by:

"Chase after the truth like all hell and you'll free yourself, even though you never touch its coattails." — Clarence Darrow

"This is the true joy of life, the being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." — George Bernard Shaw

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

I'll answer aspirationally: Atticus Finch from "To Kill A Mockingbird." He gives attorneys something to reach for, which very few ever grasp. Finch is the epitome of courage, empathy and commitment to simple justice.



Submitted picture

Tonya Kowa-Morelli

Age: 32

Family: Joe Morelli (husband), Josephine Morelli (4-year-old daughter), Gabriella Morelli (2-year-old daughter)

Current position/responsibilities:

Vice president sales and marketing for Huston Patterson Printers.

What do you like best about what you do?

Good question! I enjoy most every aspect of my career, but if I had to narrow it down I would say I enjoy sales the most. I love everything that encompasses sales. I think it takes a certain type of personality to work in sales and during my career, I have tried hard to be successful, all while staying true to who I am as a person. There are many sales tactics out there, but I would best describe myself as a relationship building salesperson. I love to meet new people and learn about them — both personally and professionally. From a personal standpoint, I have met a lot of great people who have now become friends, and from a professional standpoint it is very satisfying to know I have helped them or their company succeed. I also consider myself to be a very self-motivated and competitive person. I love the thrill of the chase. The adrenaline rush I feel when I gain a new client or close a big corporate contract is like nothing else. The best comparison I can think of is how an athlete feels just before a big game or after a big win. For me, selling is a win-win. I have the opportunity to make new friendships while fulfilling my competitive spirit.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

I love the small-town feel that Decatur provides, yet being centrally located between Chicago, Indianapolis and St. Louis allows for quick weekend trips to a larger city. Having grown up here I am somewhat biased, but I think

Macon County is a great place to raise a family. Decatur provides a lot for families to do — the zoo, children's museum, lake, parks, playgrounds, etc.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

Decatur has done a lot in the last year and half to attract young professionals to the area. The streetscapes project has transformed downtown Decatur into a very nice city district; with boutiques, restaurants and bars that

appeal to the younger demographic. This program will continue to improve the look of downtown Decatur and the Decatur Park District is constantly improving their parks and program offerings. Merchant Street and the Millikin district have also infused energy to the community with their summer street festivals and community-related events.

However, in my opinion, when relocating with a young family, the main attraction is the school district. I know that the Decatur public schools are putting a lot of energy into specific programs, what they have done with Dennis-Millikin Lab School is outstanding. I am hopeful that they continue to focus on improving all of their school programs. As a mother, I feel it is very important to

provide a well-rounded education for our children and showing appreciation to our great educators.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

I feel like the answer to this question is always changing and evolving, but at this point in my life Josephine and Gabriella (my daughters) have the biggest influence on me. It is amazing how much influence and motivation children have on their parents. Simply put, they provide me with a very innocent view of life and because of that I am constantly working to be a better person.

What you do still hope to accomplish?

Wow! This is a tough question. I don't feel as if I have even scratched the surface of what I would like to accomplish.

Professionally, I have aspirations to help Huston Patterson continue to grow in our industry. Whether that be in my current role of VP of sales and marketing or down the road in a different role, I am always looking for ways to help our company continue to be leaders. Personally, I have a list of things I want to accomplish too long to write down. First and foremost, I want to continue to be a good mom to my two daughters. That to me is more important than anything else. Ultimately, if they grow to be good, ethical people, my number one goal in life would be complete. On a less serious note, I would like to spend more time working with the charitable organizations I am involved in. I enjoy spending time helping people and believe strongly in these organizations.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Traveling. I love seeing other parts of the country. One day, a long time from now, I plan to spend retirement with my husband seeing this beautiful world in which we live. For now, I will go get a manicure and pedicure to relieve stress.

Your favorite movie:

“Having grown up here I am somewhat biased, but I think Macon County is a great place to raise a family. Decatur provides a lot for families to do — the zoo, children's museum, lake, parks, playgrounds, etc.”

“My Best Friends Wedding”

Your favorite book:

“Marley and Me”

Quote to live by:

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.”

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

Cinderella. What girl doesn't want to be a princess?

Congratulations! Colin Bonner

The Decatur Park District and MidState Soccer Club proudly salute Colin for his professionalism, dedication, and commitment to our community's soccer players in the Academy Program, club teams, and recreational leagues. Colin inspires players, coaches, families, and fans with his exceptional leadership qualities and passion and love for the game.



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Drew Jacobus

Age: 28

Family: I have a basset hound named Copper. My immediate family — mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather, and aunt and uncle — live in Decatur, and my younger brother, Joe, lives in Chicago.

Current position/responsibilities: Staff attorney for Hospital Sisters Health System, an affiliate of St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur. I provide general legal counsel to hospitals in our division.

What do you like best about what you do? I learn new things and am challenged on a daily basis. I strive to make a difference in our patients' experiences at our hospitals.

What do you like best about working or living in the community? I love being close to my family and the friends that I grew up with. Decatur is a beautiful, small community and I enjoy having an opportunity to make an impact.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area: Decatur would benefit from stronger

professional networking and promoting a greater awareness of the unique things Decatur has to offer. Decatur has many recreational activities, but I hear frequently that meeting other young professionals is difficult.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why: My parents have been my biggest supporters along the way and have enabled me to pursue and reach my dreams.

What you do still hope to accomplish? I hope to continue to learn every day and polish my professional presence and skill set.

Your favorite stress reliever: Hiking and playing with my basset hound, Copper.

Your favorite movie: "The Wizard of Oz"

Your favorite book: "Ruby" by Ann Hood

Quote to live by: "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why? Jo March from "Little Women." She is an independent thinker and strives to achieve her dreams.

"I love being close to my family and the friends that I grew up with. Decatur is a beautiful, small community and I enjoy having an opportunity to make an impact."



“Having the creative freedom to do what I am passionate about every day. I love to make the day better for people.”

Paco Greenwell

Age: 37

Family:

Ryan (wife) and our dogs, Deri and Web.

Current position/responsibilities:

Owner and executive chef of Paco's Sol Bistro.

What do you like best about what you do?

Having the creative freedom to do what I am passionate about every day. I love to make the day better for people.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

How supportive this community can be. I have truly met some amazing people since opening our restaurant.

What should the community be

doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

My simple answer is better jobs and better schools.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My mom. She taught me to love those most important to us unconditionally. Plus, she has worked as hard as anyone I know to provide for her family.

What do you still hope to accomplish:

Grow my company to multiple units.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Music. I love music. Especially live music.

Your favorite movie: “The Dark Knight,” “Gladiator,” “Jerry McGuire,”

“Goodfellas,” “Casino” and “Good Will Hunting.”

Your favorite book: Sorry, I don't read much.

Quote to live by:

“The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen

field of endeavor.” — Vince Lombardi

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

Yoda. Because I wish I was a Jedi Master.



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-Wm. Joe Sullivan



“I do something for money that I would do for free (don’t tell my boss). I help students improve their lives, reach their goals and gain self-sufficiency.”

Kelly M. Gagnon

Age: 27

Family:

Mother, father, brother, sister-in-law, and an adorable red-headed niece who lives too far away.

Current position/responsibilities:

Adult education curriculum coordinator at Richland Community College. I coordinate the adult basic education, GED preparation and English as a Second Language programs.

What do you like best about what you do?

I do something for money that I would do for free (don’t tell my boss). I help students improve their lives, reach their goals and gain self-sufficiency. Whether the student is a single mother with six children, a 47-year-old man who was recently laid off from the job he had held since he was 17, or a student from Mexico who wants to improve her English so she can gain citizenship, every day I get to impact students’ and their families’ lives and help people find value in themselves.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

Through serving on the Old Kings Orchard Community Center Board, teaching the Baby TALK/RCC Family Literacy class, working on Re:Decatur, and collaborating with Project READ, I have had the opportunity to surround myself with intelligent, passionate people of all ages and backgrounds who dedicate their lives to continually improving themselves, their programs and the community.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

Clean up the struggling neighborhoods. Renovate or tear down the vacant,

dilapidated buildings and houses. Improve the schools and the reputation of the high schools. Bring Trader Joe’s to Decatur. Encourage large employers to host more employee events downtown and on the waterfront.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My mother, Becky Gagnon. As a child, I observed my mother living life with passion, appreciating others, supporting my father, and celebrating the simple things in life. As an ESL instructor in Lafayette, Ind., and then at Richland, my mother enjoyed giving to and encouraging others. She also has a knack for thinking critically without being critical. As I continue on in my life, I strive to be as selfless, joyful and good as my mother.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

Direct the musical “Pippin,” renovate an old farmhouse, and work with a successful re-entry program

Your favorite stress reliever:

Dancing in the rain.

Your favorite movie:

“Everything Is Illuminated”

Your favorite book:

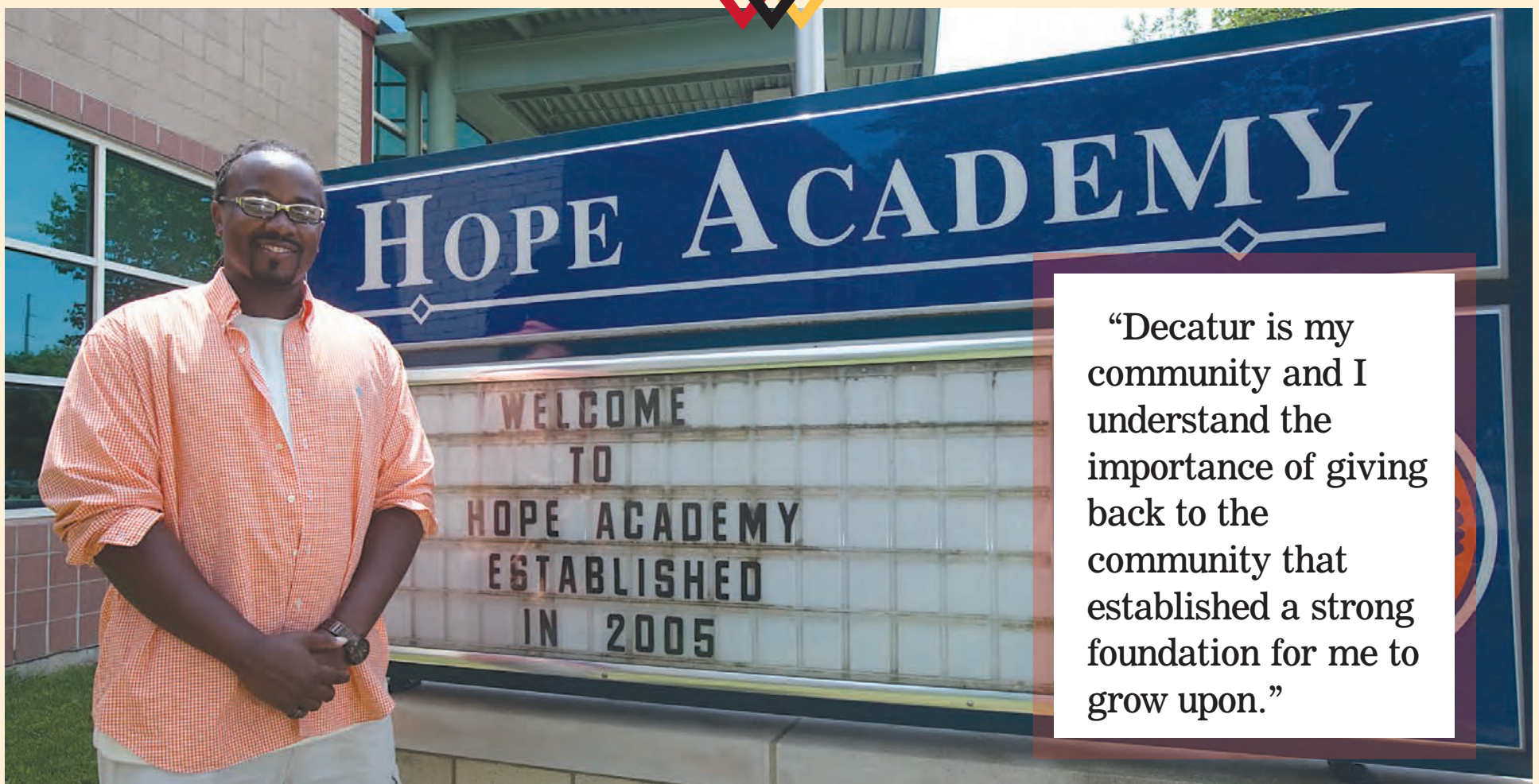
“Cat’s Cradle” by Kurt Vonnegut

Quote to live by:

“Seek not the favor of the multitude; it is seldom got by honest and lawful means. But seek the testimony of few; and number not voices, but weight them.” — Immanuel Kant

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

Don Quixote. Life inside his head would be very exciting and adventurous.



“Decatur is my community and I understand the importance of giving back to the community that established a strong foundation for me to grow upon.”

Johnathan R. Fluker

Age: 30

Family: The Rev. Anthony and Rita (parents); Jaime, Dorian Amber, Kimberly (sisters); and Sheldon (brother).

Current position/responsibilities:

Clinical Counselor II at Kemmerer Village in Assumption where I manage a cohort of high-risk youth in a residential setting. I also am a substitute teacher in the Decatur School District.

What do you like best about what you do?

I actually have a love and true passion for what I do simply because it gives me a feeling of completion to have the opportunity to plant many productive seeds. I'm also blessed to be able to observe tremendous growth that young adults can produce with consistent support.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

Decatur is my community and I understand the importance of giving back to the community that established a strong foundation for me to grow upon. It's a great experience to be able watch individuals that were on their way to being what some would call trash in the world and with the help of Jesus Christ who is my Savior, formulate them into contributing members of the community.

What should the community be doing to

attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

Provide more opportunities to excel in the community. For example, better job opportunities, extra curricular activities that are focused within age groups and increased mentor programs for high risk youth.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My parents have been very instrumental in molding me into the man that I am today. However, Jesus Christ has been, by far, the biggest influence in my life today and forevermore. He is Jehovah-Chatsahi (Lord my Strength), Jehovah-Go'el (Lord my Redeemer), Jehovah-Jireh (Provider), and Jehovah-Ganan (Lord our Defense). Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." That is how He influences my life and how I apply His instructions in my community.

What do you still hope to accomplish?

To continue to help rebuild a sense of structure and consistent support in the lives of not only young adults, but any adults in the community that have needs.

Your favorite stress reliever:

Interacting with my church family (Life Changers Church), golfing, washing and waxing my vehicle,

and working out at one of the best gyms in Decatur (Club Fitness), going to a movie theater and sitting in the middle of the theater by myself while reflecting on life.

Your favorite movie:

"Forest Gump"

Your favorite book:

"The Bible"

Quote to live by:

"What you do in life, echoes in eternity."

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why?

Forest Gump. When you think about it, he was a renaissance man. He was very forgiving and gave individuals many chances for redemption, excelled at everything he did and, above all, had a huge heart for people. He also had an effect on people that caused them to follow his lead, even while not knowing why or where he was running to, they continued to follow him because they were inspired. His wealth and fame never affected his approach or his giving heart toward the people.

Colin Bonner

Age: 32

Family: Alisha (wife), Thomas and Elspeth (parents in Scotland), Lesley and Gillian (sisters in Scotland) and Ranger (dog).

Current position/responsibilities: Midstate Soccer Club director of coaching and player development. I organize and oversee all soccer activities within the Decatur Park District area and I'm responsible for developing coaches and players within Midstate Soccer Club and the general Decatur community.

What do you like best about what you do?

Many things. I feel privileged to work with children and see them develop and grow. I love that I get to work outside a lot and that I rarely have two days that are the same.

What do you like best about working or living in the community?

I like the outdoor, friendly environment and the sense of being part of a close-knit, family community.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area?

The current lakefront development is a fantastic way to attract young people into the area. The continued improvement of downtown Decatur is also beneficial. I'd also love to see more investment in education.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why:

My parents. They have continually supported me and my decisions and provided the best sounding board for advice. I credit any and all of my attributes to a value-driven, solid family foundation.

What you do still hope to accomplish?

On a personal basis, I am constantly seeking improvement. I am striving to obtain more coaching knowledge from courses I attend, as well as one day to attain a master's degree in sports psychology. In terms of what I can accomplish in my current position, I would love to be able to provide more opportunities so that children of all different backgrounds and economic areas can be introduced to and be able to play the beautiful game of soccer.

Your favorite stress reliever: Walking or playing with our dog is a great way to relieve stress.

Your favorite movie: "Pulp Fiction" or "The Shawshank Redemption."

Your favorite book: I love all coaching/leadership books. Two favorites are "Wooden on Leadership" and



"I feel privileged to work with children and see them develop and grow. I love that I get to work outside a lot and that I rarely have two days that are the same. "

"Coaching Outside the Box: Changing the Mindset in Youth Soccer," by Mairs and Shaw.

Quote to live by: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard, but hard-working talent beats everything."

Submitted picture

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why? Homer Simpson. He tends to get involved in adventurous rollercoaster rides. He also revels in the simple things in life. It would be interesting.



“I enjoy building one-on-one relationships with our customers and their caregivers, and working with my family.”

Erica Colee

Age: 26

Family: Family: Dale and Rita (parents), Kyle Stone (brother), Lauren and Chad Young (sister and brother-in-law), Aly (sister), Reese ("sister"/pet)

Current position/responsibilities: Pharmacy manager/Dale's "favorite daughter" at Dale's Southlake Pharmacy. I am the pharmacist responsible for the specialty prescription packaging services offered at Dale's, and I coordinate our assisted-living facility and nursing home patients' medications.

What do you like best about what you do? I enjoy building one-on-one relationships with our customers and their caregivers, and working with my family. I love finding solutions for our customers and seeing the positive results with their doctors, nurses and other health care providers. Seeing how excited my dad is to continue to work at what he loves to do after more than 40 years, makes me certain that I am in the right place.

What do you like best about working or living in the community? After living in St. Louis for six years during pharmacy school, I love working in a close-knit community like Decatur. It's great to be home again.

What should the community be doing to attract more young people to live and work in the Decatur area? I suggest more promotion of groups such as the Young Philanthropists. Also, having some after-hours events that are geared specifically toward working young professionals, that start after 6 p.m.

The person who has had the biggest influence on you and why: I won't try to single out just one particular member of my immediate or work families as the biggest influence, since they have all helped me get where I am today. Outside of them, one of my favorite college professors at St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Dr. Tommy Smith, motivated and supported me through some of the toughest years of my educational path. He showed me that my career path will not always be easy, but it is worth it.

What do you still hope to accomplish? My short-term goal is to take my lunch break at a normal hour

during the workday. My longer-term goal is opening another family-owned pharmacy. Erica's Northlake has a nice ring to it, right?

Your favorite stress reliever: Bowling, watching NASCAR races, or enjoying the "Erica Colee" mini corn dogs and curly fries meal at the Wharf help me relax.

Your favorite movie: It is a tie between "Dirty Dancing" and "A League of Their Own."

Your favorite book: "Little Women" is the only book that I ever liked, and my poor grandma had to sit through every time I read it out loud. After six years of pharmacy school, I am on a hiatus from books for awhile.

Quote to live by: "Hold tight to memories for comfort, lean on your friends for strength, and always remember how much you are cared about."

If you were a fictional character, which one would you be? Why? Sophia from "The Golden Girls," because I want to be that feisty and funny when I get to that stage in my life.

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