You Belong

CLASS NOTES

ONE OF US

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

VINITA HENRY, OD 1985

“Others might be affected by your work,” she says. “It is very nice to know that your work has been beneficial to others in your field.” Henry also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators this year and works as clinical professor and associate dean of clinical operations in UMSL’s College of Optometry. “Working with students is extremely rewarding. To watch their growth and advancement is something that is especially internationally.”

Karen Johnson, BBA 1993, was promoted to director of experience and research enrichment at Edward Jones.

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Dr. Vinita HENRY, OD 1985, received the Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding long-term contributions to the optometric profession from the American Optometric Association Contact Lens and Cornea Section Council in June. She is extremely honored to be recognized by her peers nationally. “I believe in hard work, but you don’t always realize that others might be paying attention or are affected by your work,” she says. “It is very nice to know that your work has been beneficial to others in your field.” Henry also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators this year and works as clinical professor and associate dean of clinical operations in UMSL’s College of Optometry. “Working with students is extremely rewarding. To watch their growth and advancement is something that is especially internationally.”

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Tony Hayes, BS 2000, began a new position as principal scientist of toxicology for preclinical drug development at Apollo Pharmaceutilicals.

Todd Hicks, BA 2000, began a new position at Baren Spooce.

Kirk KASICKI, MACC 2004, was promoted to senior vice president, corporate tax at CSI Leasing Inc. Kasicki worked full-time while studying for his master’s degree at UMSL – his daughter was born three weeks before finals during his last semester – and he landed his first job out of college with CSI in the income tax department. He considers himself lucky to have a boss who not only taught him what he needed to learn but also supported him when he took a position at Enterprise Rent-A-Car to further expand his horizons. Kasicki returned to CSI as manager of the income tax department in 2010 and has been leading the department since. He says he was quite surprised and honored to be named among those being promoted this year at CSI’s annual company-wide meeting. “It reminded me of the faith that CSI puts into its people and is just one of the reasons that CSI has so many long-tenured employees,” he says. “During my time at CSI, I’ve learned about taxing regimes around the world and also had the opportunity to travel to four continents, getting to know and advising our local teams on tax issues. I’ve worked on a vast array of projects from structuring opportunities for our customers to due diligence on acquisitions as CSI has continued to grow, especially internationally.”

Edward Concannon, BS 1997, was promoted to vice president of IT systems at CSI Leasing Inc.

Rebecca Boyer, BSE 1997, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

Ernest P. Williams III, BGS 1997, began a new position as supply diversity program manager at his Meristar.

Sarah Johnson, BBA 1998, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

Douglas Harrison, BA 1998, was appointed associate dean for the Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies in the School of Professional Studies at New York University.

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Angela PERKINS, MEd 2010, was recently promoted to associate director of talent acquisition at Ginkgo Bioworks, a platform company in the biotechnology space focused on synthetic biology. Perkins learned as an undergraduate resident assistant just how fulfilling it was to help students on their journey and turned that passion into a career helping students develop the competencies that employers are looking for. To advance in her career, she took advantage of the flexibility UMSL provides for working professionals juggling their home life, their career and their academic goals. At Novaspect Inc., she was promoted and has continued to advance in her career in university relations within corporate talent acquisition.

June Christian, PhD 2012, began a new position as an inclusion and diversity manager and a learning and education strategist at Novaspect Inc.

Amanda McCready, BA 2012, began a new position as a residential physician at Saint Louis University Hospital.

Talia Gholson, BSBA 2013, began a new position as a business consultant at Novaspect Inc.

Adam Moss, BSBA 2011, began a new position as a financial advisor at BB&T.

Eboni Sterling, BSEd 2011, began a new position as a residential architect at O’FLiG.

Mary Felchner, BS 2013, began a new position as a financial analyst at ADP.

Diana Deacon, BSBA 2015, began a new position as a client success consultant at Ad Astra.

Talia Gholson, MBA 2011, began a new position as a chief operating officer at Peter & Paul Foundation.

Jean McKee, MEd 2014, began a new position as a senior accountant at Nucor Corporation.
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She was excited to return to the company early last year and to have been promoted to a new position as a psychiatric nurse midwife.

Olivia Foster, BSN 2016

began a new position as a psychiatric nurse midwife. By joining BJC Healthcare, she gained a 360-degree view of patient care from a nursing perspective,

Whistle-blower

Stephens College.

Brianda Cepeda, BSIS 2016

began a new position as a qualified mental health professional at Integral Care.

Kayla Cameron, BSBa 2016

began a new position as a lead customer resolution representative at Wells Fargo.

Amanda Tran, BSEd 2015

began a new position as a junior kindergarten teacher at Rohan Woods School.

Kayla Young, BS 2015

began a new position as a senior auditor at COPA.

Jayni Brovko, BS 2016

began a new position as a senior brokerage partner at DTN/PHeil Specialized Real Estate.

Tiffany Brown, BA 2016

began a new position as a qualified mental health professional at Integral Care.

Nicole LAGRASSO, BSBa 2016

was recently promoted to small business liaison officer on the Global Supplier Diversity team at Boeing supporting the Air Dominance Division in ST. Louis.

She began her career at Boeing in 2016 as a procurement agent and worked at the company for more than four years before making the hard decision to leave in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She was excited to return to the company early last year and to have been promoted this spring. “I’m most excited about learning the 360-degree side that I wasn’t able to learn in my previous time on the team,” she says. “I’m also excited about learning more about some of the cross-functional teams that I get to work with in this role, which will further expand my understanding of how Boeing does business outside of just supply chain.”

Tarrell Jones, BA 2016

began a new position as a claims generalist associate at Progressive Insurance.

Sean Marshall, BS 2016

began a new position as a convention services manager at the Chaifetz Arena.

Huy (Ben) Nguyen, BS 2016, MS, PhD 2021, began a new position as an associate professor at Maryville University.

Joshua Perkins, BS 2016

began a new position as an account development representative III at Sumarr.

Emma Smith, BSE 2018, began a new position as a senior programmer analyst at NTT Data.

Cassie Starrett, BSN 2016

began a new position as a critical care nurse at Missouri Baptist Hospital.

Audra Adams, BA 2017, MA 2020, began a new position as a senior academic advisor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Storme Burt, BSBA 2017

began a new position as an event coordinator at the Missouri Historical Society.

Kyle Cope, BSBA 2018

began a new position as a sales representative at B2r.

Phillip Detors, BSBA 2018

began a new position as a senior financial analyst at B2r.

Zyke Coppe, BSBA 2018

began a new position as an entry-level back-end developer at The Fit and Food Connection.

Kaitlin Grosshans, BS 2018

began a new position as a quality assurance engineer at Chubb Insurance.

Alex Boss, BS 2018

began a new position as an IT analyst at The Fit and Food Connection.

Heather Lang, BS 2018

began a new position as a Data Science Analyst at The Fit and Food Connection.

Kimberly Palm, BS 2018

began a new position as a project manager at the Chicago Bulls.

Kathryn Ross, BSN 2018

began a new position as a registered nurse at MetroWest Medical Center.

Tiffany Brown, BA 2016

began a new position as an account representative at Wells Fargo.

Kayla Young, BS 2015

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promoted to portfolio administration, was placed as assistant curator at the Museum of Modern Art. Zach Stehr, BSBA 2014, began a new position as a regional marketing manager at Live Nation Entertainment.

Ashok Summers, BA 2014, began a new position as a senior technician at ValveCorps.

Andrew Tipping, BA 2019, MA 2019, began a new position as manager on the Health Data Science Team at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health.

Matthew Walker, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a technical specialist at Edward Jones.

Kellen King, BSBA 2020, began a new position in Government Cost Analysis at the University of Missouri. Eric Porter, MPA 2020, began a new position as operating manager at Alcatraz LLC.

The 2023 honorees are (pictured from left) Petra Baker, BSA 2003, as a discerning example in architecture and philanthropy; and as a passionate leader in the fight against climate change.

The 2023 honorees are (from left) Petra Baker, BSA 2003, an visionary example in architecture and philanthropy; and as a passionate leader in the fight against climate change.

Lindsey Sieves, BSA 2019, began a new position as an AP supervisor at Enterprise Fleet Management.

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