

# EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT



From paintballs and gemstones to the American flag – graduates of Illinois State University's College of Business are leveraging their degrees and earning professional distinction in a wide array of industries.

Here is a brief look at the winners of the 2009-2010 College of Business Early Career Achievement Awards (ECAA) who will be recognized during Homecoming festivities at Illinois State University in October.

*We are proud to  
celebrate the success  
of this year's honorees.*

**John Carter '99 (marketing)** is the chief operating officer for Jack Lewis Fine Jewelry and also holds the title of Certified Gemologist Appraiser. He coordinates the day to day operations of the company as well as any gemological issues that may arise.



**Paul Ciesiun '06 (entrepreneurship)** is the holder of three patents, and like most successful entrepreneurs, he wears many hats. He is president of Exiled Paintball Inc., an IP holding research/development firm. Ciesiun also owns and manages daily operations of Hydro-Caps LLC which uses a proprietary method for manufacturing paintballs that are environmentally friendly, yet cheaper and more durable than any competing product currently on the market.



**Dawn (Skaggs) Forden '99 (insurance)** is a vice president at Swiss Reinsurance America Corporation where she is responsible for marketing and underwriting Casualty Facultative Reinsurance business. Forden has held positions of increasing responsibility since joining the company after graduation.



**Bob Glazik '98 (accountancy)** is a director of audit services with McGladrey & Pullen's Great Lakes practice. Since joining the firm in 1998, he has provided audit, accounting and consulting services to clients across various industries, with his expertise in manufacturing and wholesale distribution.



**Lori (Sacre) Gondry '98 (master of science in accountancy)** has served as the director of financial reporting at Stored Value Solutions in Louisville, KY since January 2009. The company provides gift and reward cards and card processing services for approximately 40% of the nation's largest restaurants and retailers and also serves numerous international customers.



**Josh Gordon '00 (M.B.A.)** is a national account manager at Brightpoint Inc. Through this role Gordon is responsible for end-to-end supply chain solutions and fulfillment of mobile products for the 5<sup>th</sup> largest wireless carrier in the nation.



**Katie Hill-Gottesman '01 (integrated marketing communications)** is founder and CEO of Commuter Advertising, the first and only provider of short-form audio advertising on public transit vehicles. Currently operating within the Greater Dayton RTA in Ohio and the Champaign-Urbana MTD, Commuter Advertising's location-based media creates new revenue that is shared with transit authority partners.



**Divyesh Jevtani '04 (international business)** is an online communications specialist for the communications group within Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Jevtani, who is based in New York, is responsible for creating a global community for content managers from around the world for their intranet enabling them to share best practices and develop web strategy. In addition, he project manages the team's online initiatives.



**Scott Joyce '98 (finance)** is the director of leveraged finance at Wells Fargo Securities where he is responsible for originating, structuring and underwriting leveraged syndicated loans and high yield bonds for corporate clients and private equity groups. His primary focus is mergers and acquisitions financing within the industrial, defense and aerospace industries.



**Aaron Larsen '01 (business information systems)** is a senior cost engineer working for Bechtel Corporation within the Oil, Gas, and Chemical Division. He works closely with senior site management to oversee project budgets, identify scope changes, validate subcontractor proposals, and quantify construction progress on the \$1.25 billion coker expansion project at the Conoco Phillips refinery in Wood River, IL.



**Matt Peterson '04 (business teacher education)** is head of the Business Department at Reed-Custer High School in Braidwood where he has taught for five years. Peterson, who serves as the girls' basketball coach and a class sponsor, also teaches in the computer department at Joliet Junior College.



**Carl "Gus" Porter III '02 (business administration)** is CEO of WGN Flag & Decorating Co., a 4th generation family business overseeing all aspects of the business, including marketing, production, sales, and management. Porter is president of the National Independent Flag Dealers Association (NIFDA) where he serves as an industry spokesperson and plans the organization's annual national convention.



**Ryan Prevo '05 (master of professional accountancy)** is the supervisor of the Life/Health Financial Reporting department at COUNTRY Financial. In this role Prevo is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for three Life companies and six other subsidiaries, researching new accounting guidance, and preparing regulatory filings for various states and agencies.



**Mike Rizzuto '05 (professional sales)** has enjoyed a series of rapid promotions since joining Chicago Office Technology Group upon graduation. He is now a branch manager responsible for the professional development of seven COTG print consultants. Rizzuto provides coaching in all elements of sales and key account management, while continuing to manage several of COTG's largest accounts.



**Brett Walsh '01 (human resources)** is the corporate human resources manager for STARCON International, a mid-size mechanical engineering contractor in the petrochemical and oil refining industry. Walsh manages all employee and labor relations, talent management, compensation & benefits, as well as recruiting & staffing. He also serves as an advisor and consultant to line management and senior leadership.



### ***Mark your calendars...***

On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> we encourage you to attend the ECAA panel discussions from 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. in the College of Business Building and the reception immediately afterwards in the lower level atrium.

On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> join us at the free College of Business Alumni Network Tailgate from 11-1:30 p.m. before the Homecoming game against Indiana State University. Our electronic RSVP for the event will be available in early August.



**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
*Illinois State University*