

GCU ALUMNI

2026 | 30 UNDER 30 LIST

Ingram Honors College Special Edition



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Gerardo Alanis Enhorabuena

2019 | Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science

2025 | Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Position

Founder, Grim Reaper Garage

Industry

Entrepreneurship

Connect With Gerardo

[LinkedIn.com/in/gerardo-alanis-enhorabuena-20a078127](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gerardo-alanis-enhorabuena-20a078127)

Career History

Gerardo began his career with the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office, investigating hundreds of non-natural deaths and collaborating with local law enforcement and federal agencies, including the DEA, ATF and FBI. Since then, he became a registered nurse, and today he brings the analytical thinking, attention to detail and commitment to service developed through forensic investigations to his work in patient care. Gerardo also is the founder of Grim Reaper Garage, providing reliable and affordable automotive repair services to his community.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

As a DACA recipient and child of immigrants, Gerardo is passionate about showing others that success is possible regardless of where they start. From supporting families through difficult moments to caring for patients or mentoring others, it's the opportunity to make a meaningful difference and inspire future generations to pursue their own possibilities that drives Gerardo.

Career Philosophy

For Gerardo, success is rooted in service, perseverance and purpose. He believes meaningful work is about using his skills and experiences to help others. He also hopes his journey inspires future first-generation professionals to pursue their goals, give back and uplift those around them.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

As a medicolegal death investigator, Gerardo mentored interns, medical students and law enforcement personnel, supporting their development in the field. He also earned his American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) certification, marking a significant professional milestone in forensic science.

Advice

Gerardo says, "Success isn't linear. There'll be detours, setbacks and moments of doubt, but embrace them — they build perspective, resilience and strength. My own journey has shown me that unexpected turns can lead to meaningful opportunities. When things get difficult, remember why you started and hold onto that purpose. Stay consistent, even when progress feels slow. Lean on your faith and your support system. The challenges you face today are shaping the person you need to become for what's ahead."



Isaac Alvarez

2024 | Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Position

Graduate Student Researcher, UC Davis Health, Department of Orthopedic Surgery

Industry

Higher Education

Connect With Issac

[LinkedIn.com/in/isaacjalvarez](https://www.linkedin.com/in/isaacjalvarez)

Career History

Isaac earned his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from GCU's Honors College and completed two internships with Sensient Natural Ingredients, supporting engineering projects and manufacturing operations. Today, he's a PhD researcher in the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis. His research bridges tissue engineering and clinical translation, focusing on 3D-printed systems for patient-specific bone repair.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Some of Isaac's most meaningful experiences have come from helping others grow. As an e-mentor through the Biomedical Engineering Student Association, he guided high school students through biomedical innovation projects and encouraged their interest in medicine and engineering. He's also mentored an undergraduate researcher, helping him develop technical skills, design experiments and prepare for an institution-wide research showcase.

Career Philosophy

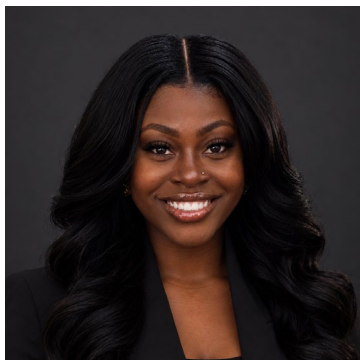
"Research can create meaningful change when scientific discovery is connected to real-world patient needs". Isaac's work integrates materials testing, surgical models and cell culture to better understand how implant properties influence biological responses. Ultimately, he hopes to lead orthopedic research and development efforts that improve treatment for musculoskeletal impairments in underserved communities.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Isaac was selected as a Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar and one of two National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases T32 trainees. His research has been presented at interdisciplinary symposia and an abstract highlighting his work was accepted for presentation at the 2026 Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons Annual Meeting. As an undergraduate, his capstone project focused on gait correction for canines with limb amputations.

Advice

"Always challenge and sharpen your perspective but be patient with yourself. It can be daunting to realize how much you don't know, but being eager to learn and embrace feedback is far more important. Be unapologetically curious and aim to fail early and often. There's no better way to grow."



Bernadette Amofa

2020 | Bachelor of Science in Biology

2026 | Master of Physician Assistant Practice, University of Southern California

Current Position

Founder, Reverse The Mirror

Industry

Entrepreneurship

Connect With Bernadette

[LinkedIn.com/in/bernadette-amofa-89a431159](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bernadette-amofa-89a431159)

Career History

Bernadette is a physician associate (PA) graduate from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. Passionate about equitable, patient-centered care, she's worked with underserved populations across Los Angeles through Street Medicine and founded Reverse The Mirror, a nonprofit focused on women's health, self-worth and empowerment. Ultimately, Bernadette hopes to expand access to care, advocate for underserved communities and mentor future health care professionals.

What Brings Meaning To Her Work?

As a first-generation Ghanaian American fluent in English and Twi, Bernadette has seen how culture, language and access can shape a patient's health care experience. She's especially fulfilled by helping young women and first-generation students see possibilities for themselves. Hearing from students who pursued PA school or leadership opportunities after seeing her example reminds Bernadette of the impact representation and encouragement can have.

Career Philosophy

Bernadette strives to be the person she once needed. Whether caring for patients, mentoring students or sharing her story, she wants people to leave their interactions with her feeling more confident, supported and empowered to keep moving forward.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Bernadette has received national scholarships and leadership recognition while completing the rigorous demands of PA school. Not only has she mentored pre-PA students, spoken at conferences, contributed to initiatives focused on improving health literacy and access to care and represented PA students nationally as an American Academy of Physician Associates House of Delegates Student, but in 2022, she was also named Miss Africa Arizona.

Advice

"Don't shrink yourself because a room feels unfamiliar or because you're the first one there. Some opportunities meant for you will feel bigger than your comfort zone but walk into them anyway. There'll be days you question yourself, feel tired or wonder if you belong, and that's where faith carries you. Keep going. One day, the journey that stretched you will become the reason someone else believes they can do it too."



Faith Bittner

2022 | Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Advertising

2025 | Juris Doctor, Arizona State University

Position

Law Clerk, Arizona Court of Appeals

Industry

Law

Connect With Faith

[LinkedIn.com/in/hakyeong](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hakyeong)

Career History

Faith is a judicial law clerk at the Arizona Court of Appeals, where she works closely with judges to research complex legal issues and draft decisions. Following her current clerkship, she'll join the federal district court as a law clerk. Additionally, Faith currently serves as ministry coordinator for her church's young professionals' group, organizing programming and creating opportunities for connection and mentorship among peers navigating their early careers.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Investing in others through mentorship, teaching and service brings meaning to Faith's work. Inspired in part by her experience with the GCU Honors College mentorship program, she served as a tutor and teaching assistant during law school, helping students strengthen their legal writing and analytical skills. She especially values building relationships that help others feel supported and confident in their ability to grow.

Career Philosophy

Showing up consistently, building meaningful relationships and embracing opportunities to learn have shaped Faith's approach to her career. She values clear, persuasive legal analysis while recognizing that professional success also provides opportunities to support and equip others.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Faith served as an articles editor for the Arizona State Law Journal and received a CALI Award in Advanced Criminal Procedure. Her scholarship has appeared in Arizona Attorney Magazine. As a summer associate, she drafted a jurisdictional brief that successfully resolved a dispositive issue. Before law school, she helped develop and present a 64-page policy recommendation addressing Arizona's Olmstead Plan to a panel of stakeholders.

Advice

"If you don't know anyone in your desired field, show up anyway. Attend events, introduce yourself and ask thoughtful questions. I didn't know any lawyers while I was at GCU, so I walked into law firms and handed out my resume. One firm gave me a chance, and that experience shaped the trajectory of my career. Most opportunities come from being present and willing to reach out, even when it feels uncomfortable."



Austin Byrom

2018 | Bachelor of Arts in Government with an Emphasis in Legal Studies

2021 | Juris Doctor, Baylor University School of Law

Position

Assistant Attorney General, Arizona Attorney General's Office

Industry

Law

Connect With Austin

[LinkedIn.com/in/austin-byrom](https://www.linkedin.com/in/austin-byrom)

Career History

Austin previously served as District 4 Representative on Young Lawyers Division Board for the State Bar of Arizona and was Mock Trial Co-Chair for Young Lawyers Division for the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association. Currently, he is an attorney with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, where he represents professional licensing boards that help protect public health, safety and welfare. He also serves as an instructor at GCU, helping students develop confidence in legal analysis and communication. Previously, Austin practiced at Hartline Barger LLP and served as Baylor Law's Director of Career Development, supporting students as they launched their legal careers.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Whether he's making complicated legal concepts approachable for students, working through challenging issues with stakeholders or supporting public institutions, Austin says he strives to be dependable, thoughtful and service-oriented and finds meaning in helping others succeed.

Career Philosophy

Service, critical thinking and practical leadership have shaped Austin's approach to his career. He believes in leading with integrity, making complex issues more understandable and helping institutions operate effectively. Ultimately, he hopes his impact is measured not only by what he accomplishes, but by how he helps others grow.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Austin graduated cum laude from Baylor Law School, where he served on the Baylor Law Review. As Baylor Law's Director of Career Development, he contributed by supporting students entering the legal profession. Baylor ranked No. 3 nationally for full-time, bar-passage-required employment for the Class of 2024, with 95 percent of graduates securing those positions within 10 months.

Advice

"Hold yourself to a standard of excellence but allow yourself grace when you give your best effort and still fall short. Don't give up. Learn from it, change what's in your power and remember who you are and whose you are."



Kiara Colgan

2019 | Bachelor of Science in Counseling with an Emphasis in Addiction, Chemical Dependency and Substance Abuse

2022 | Master of Science in Leadership with an Emphasis in Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Position

Assistant Director, Service Extension and Emergency Disaster Services,
The Salvation Army, Intermountain Division

Industry

Public Service

Connect With Kiara

[LinkedIn.com/in/kiara-colgan-955787159](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kiara-colgan-955787159)

Career History

Kiara joined The Salvation Army as a field representative before being promoted to her current leadership role with its intermountain division, where she supports disaster operations and community services across Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Eastern Montana. She works with The Salvation Army centers, volunteers and community partners to strengthen disaster preparedness, volunteer engagement and feeding operations. Additionally, Kiara serves young people through her church's youth group and has been involved with Young Life in Salt Lake City.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

For Kiara, meaningful work is rooted in serving others and sharing the love of Christ through everyday actions. Whether she's providing humanitarian relief after a disaster, supporting volunteers or mentoring young people, she finds purpose in meeting people where they are and building stronger communities.

Career Philosophy

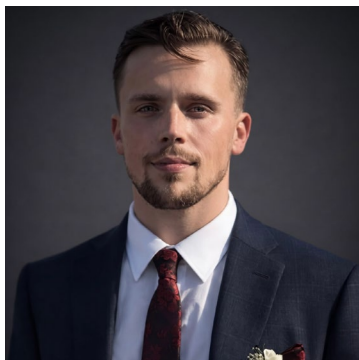
Kiara believes making an impact often starts with ordinary acts of service. Her approach centers on equipping others, building relationships and collaborating with nonprofits, government agencies, universities and faith-based organizations to better serve communities in times of need.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Kiara has deployed for monthlong disaster response assignments in response to the 2022 Yellowstone flooding in Montana, 2024 Maui wildfires and 2025 flooding in Ruidoso, New Mexico. In 2026, The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services teams in Utah were named Emergency Management Partner of the Year at the Utah Emergency Management Association Conference.

Advice

"It may sound cheesy but it's cheesy for a reason: Jesus Christ is all you need. Draw near to Him, and He'll draw near to you. He'll provide as you seek Him. If you have Him, you lack no good thing. Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) reminds us that we're saved by grace through faith. It's a gift from God, not something we earn."



Teo Dragic

2018 | Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies, Minor in Pre-Law

2022 | Juris Doctor, Arizona State University

Position

Associate Attorney

Industry

Law

Connect With Teo

[LinkedIn.com/in/teo-dragic-833a7713a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/teo-dragic-833a7713a)

Career History

Teo is an associate attorney at Faith Law, PLC, licensed to practice law in both Arizona and District of Columbia, where he primarily focuses on commercial real estate disputes, zoning applications and representing assisted living homes. His legal experience includes work in personal injury, insurance defense and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office white-collar division. He has also been a licensed Arizona Realtor since age 19 and has operated three businesses, including two assisted living homes and an electrical contracting service business.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Serving others, particularly seniors and those who rely on housing assistance, brings meaning to Teo's work. Through operating two assisted living homes, he gained firsthand experience helping individuals, including seniors who depended on AHCCCS. His Roman Catholic faith and commitment to serving his community continue to influence his approach to his work.

Career Philosophy

Teo believes gaining experience across different industries and roles can help people discover where their strengths and interests truly lie. His own career has taken him through law, real estate and entrepreneurship, giving him experience from both the legal and business sides of complex issues. He also believes professional growth goes hand in hand with community involvement and finding opportunities to help others.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

In law school, he was co-captain of the Jaffe Transactional Law Moot Court Team, which placed first in negotiations at the Jaffe Moot Court Invitational. Also, he helped found the Community Information Legal Project and served as president, helping business owners understand their rights and responsibilities during COVID-19.

Advice

"Take every opportunity you can to experience different types of employment. You never truly know what you are going to like until you try it. Also, enjoy your college experience, and join as many clubs and programs as possible. Help yourself by helping the community, the best way to help the community is to be involved."



Emily Ghena

2018 | Bachelor of Science in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine

2020 | Master of Business Administration

2026 | Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), Midwestern University

Position

General Dentist

Industry

Health Care

Career History

As Emily begins her career, she looks forward to continuing to grow as a clinician while making a meaningful difference in the lives of her patients. While in dental school, she participated in community outreach initiatives and clinical experiences serving pediatric clinics, public health settings, special needs dentistry and an international dental service trip to Samoa in 2025.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

As a student, Emily cared for underserved and high-needs populations, including pediatric clinics, public health settings, special needs dentistry and an international dental service trip. These experiences reinforced the importance of accessible, patient-centered care and strengthened her commitment to serving others through health care.

Career Philosophy

Dentistry can be intimidating for many people, and Emily has learned that compassion and communication are often just as important as clinical skill. She strives to create a positive impact by helping patients feel respected, informed and comfortable during their dental care experience.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Emily graduated within the top 10% of her class and was inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society. She was also awarded the 2026 American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Student Award of Merit, which recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in cosmetic and esthetic dentistry.

Advice

“The path to success is rarely a straight line. Imposter syndrome, setbacks and uncertainty are part of the process, but they do not define your potential. Stay committed, trust your growth and keep showing up even when progress feels slow. Some of the most meaningful growth happens quietly through perseverance, consistency and resilience.”



Tristan Goldhammer

2020 | Bachelor of Arts in Advertising and Graphic Design, Minor in Marketing

Position

Senior Graphic Designer, Arizona Diamondbacks

Industry

Marketing

Connect With Tristan

[LinkedIn.com/in/TristanGoldhammer](https://www.linkedin.com/in/TristanGoldhammer)

Career History

After graduating from GCU, Tristan joined the Arizona Diamondbacks. Working alongside the organization's creative team, she supports departments across the ballpark with everything from giveaway items, billboards and social graphics to internal logos and uniform designs. She loves that no two days look quite the same and that her creativity can make an impact across the organization. Beyond her role with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Tristan serves at Redemption Arcadia, where she leads worship.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

For Tristan, the people behind the projects are what make her work special. In the fast-paced world of professional sports, Tristan makes it a priority to look beyond the next deadline, connect with her coworkers and share the love of Christ through those relationships. She loves using creativity to help others while building genuine relationships along the way.

Career Philosophy

Creativity has the greatest impact when it serves something bigger than the work itself. Tristan takes pride in what she creates, but she believes the relationships she builds and the people her work reaches are ultimately more meaningful than any individual project.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Among Tristan's most memorable projects is a mural she designed in collaboration with the Diamondbacks' Community Impact team for United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona. Seeing her design serve as a backdrop for the nonprofit's life-changing work showed her how even a small creative contribution can make a meaningful difference in the community.

Advice

"Always be willing to put yourself out there and connect with professionals in the field you want to pursue. Starting those conversations can be intimidating, but you never know who you might meet. That person could be the one who helps you get where you want to go!"



Seth Gregg

2020 | Bachelor of Science in Sports Management

2021 | Master of Science in Marketing – Sports Marketing and Media,
Liberty University

Position

Manager, Partnership Marketing, National Association for Stock Car Auto
Racing (NASCAR)

Industry

Marketing

Connect With Seth

[LinkedIn.com/in/SethGregg](https://www.linkedin.com/in/SethGregg)

Career History

Seth is living his dream job at NASCAR, after breaking into the industry as a GCU student, working part time in marketing and sales at Phoenix Raceway. For nearly five years, he's worked with official partners to develop and execute strategic marketing campaigns that build brand value and engage fans. His experience spans partnership activation, event execution and client relationship management. Additionally, Seth served on the leadership team from 2023-25, both in events and as chair, for NASCAR Unidos, an employee resource group focused on creating an inclusive, supportive workplace.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

As a lifelong NASCAR fan, Seth finds meaning in creating race-day experiences that fans and partners remember. Whether it's a mascot making someone smile, a memorable giveaway or a "wow" moment for a partner, he enjoys finding creative ways to make each activation meaningful.

Career Philosophy

Bringing race-day energy to work shapes Seth's approach to his career. He strives to be a resource for colleagues who are new to NASCAR, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for what makes motorsports unique. As a NASCAR Buddy for new hires, he's also enjoyed helping others feel connected and confident as they begin their careers with the organization.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Seth measures success by building strong partner relationships that lead to renewals and expanded opportunities while creating activations that resonate with fans. He's especially proud that a connection he made while working at Phoenix Raceway helped launch the NASCAR career he'd envisioned.

Advice

"Scripture reminds us that we can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps (Proverbs 16:9 NLT). Put Him first and trust where He leads. Life is so much bigger than your career. Make connections, pursue internships and part-time jobs and step outside your comfort zone. One connection I made in college helped me find my career."



Trevor Gurski

2025 | Bachelor of Applied Marketing and Advertising

2026 (Projected) | Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence for Business Transformation, SKEMA

Position

Master's Candidate, SKEMA Business School, France

Industry

Business

Connect With Trevor

[LinkedIn.com/in/trevor-gurski](https://www.linkedin.com/in/trevor-gurski)

Career History

Trevor is a business strategist and U.S. Army veteran focused on bridging the gap between complex technology and business strategy, after serving with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division. His experience spans venture capital due diligence, communications and operations within U.S. House leadership and project management for a presidential campaign. He's also led cross-functional initiatives ranging from Airborne operations with the 82nd Airborne Division to collaborative AI projects with companies such as Microsoft.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Bringing people together is at the heart of what Trevor finds meaningful. Guided by Matthew 5:14 and its call to be "the light of the world," he strives to lead with kindness and empathy. While studying in France, Trevor helped champion a cross-cultural Friendsgiving celebration that brought his multinational classmates together through shared traditions and conversation.

Career Philosophy

Trevor believes the ability to build bridges is just as important in life as it is in business. Professionally, he combines business strategy with technical skills in Python, R and SQL to connect technical development with organizational goals. Personally, he believes growth happens when people seek common ground, learn from one another and work together toward something better.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

During his military service, Trevor rose to the rank of sergeant within three years, leading personnel and high-stakes Airborne operations. He later graduated from GCU's Honors College with a 3.95 GPA. His graduate studies at SKEMA are further developing his expertise at the intersection of artificial intelligence, business transformation and global strategy.

Advice

"Don't fall victim to decision paralysis. Have confidence in your abilities and remember that failure isn't the end; it's how you overcome it that defines you. Fortune favors the brave, so take the calculated risk and don't fear the unknown. Some of the most rewarding memories and achievements are waiting just beyond your comfort zone."



Stefan Hartsell

2020 | Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies with an Emphasis in Biblical Studies

2024 | Master of Divinity, Phoenix Seminary

2028 (Projected) | Doctor of Philosophy in Systematic Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Position

Lead Pastor, Parkway Southern Baptist Church

Industry

Ministry

Connect With Stefan

[LinkedIn.com/in/stefan-hartsell-2a78b6242](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stefan-hartsell-2a78b6242)

Career History

Stefan is the lead pastor, where he preaches, teaches, leads staff and oversees discipleship, missions and church operations. He's also a research expert at Boyce Centennial Library and an editorial intern for "Christ Over All," where he edits, writes and publishes theologically practical articles. Previously, he led an annual church Harvest Festival in Arizona that welcomed more than 500 attendees and involved over 60 volunteers.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Serving Christ and His church is at the heart of Stefan's calling. He's walked alongside people through grief, illness and difficult seasons while also experiencing the joy of seeing God's truth take root in their lives. Whether he's preaching, teaching, mentoring or writing, Stefan finds meaning in helping others know God more deeply and faithfully apply His Word to everyday life.

Career Philosophy

For Stefan, ministry is ultimately about faithful service. He strives to meet people wherever they are, strengthen their understanding of Scripture and help build a theological foundation that equips them throughout their lives. He's especially passionate about mentoring others and watching them grow from students into teachers.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

At 26, Stefan moved across the country to become a lead pastor. In his first two years, he preached through nearly five books of the Bible, developed curricula and reworked the church budget to eliminate a deficit. He graduated from GCU with a 4.0 GPA and earned his Master of Divinity from Phoenix Seminary with a 3.9 GPA.

Advice

"View yourself first and foremost as a servant of Christ, willing to do whatever He calls you to do, wherever He leads. Don't be anxious about tomorrow, for the Lord holds tomorrow. Be willing to step out of the boat and pursue Christ with your eyes fixed on Him (Matthew 14:22-33). Give your life wholly to Him. He who calls you is worthy. Trust Him. Fear not."



Simon Hawks

2018 | Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies, Minor in Pre-Law

2022 | Juris Doctor, Arizona State University

Position

Assistant Attorney General, Arizona Attorney General's Office

Industry

Law

Connect With Simon

<http://linkedin.com/in/simon-hawks>

Career History

Simon knew from high school that he wanted to become an attorney, drawn to the analytical thinking and reasoning the profession requires. Today, Simon is an attorney with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, representing the Arizona Department of Child Safety in dependency actions, where he helps families navigate complex circumstances while advocating for the safety and wellbeing of children.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

While Simon initially considered family law, an opportunity during his final year of law school introduced him to juvenile dependency law and gave him a way to combine his legal skills with his desire to help children. Having now managed hundreds of juvenile dependency cases, he's found meaning in helping pursue outcomes that protect children and provide stability. That's included both successfully reunifying families and helping children find permanency with alternative caregivers when reunification isn't possible.

Career Philosophy

Sincerity and dedication guide Simon's approach to his work. He believes not every effort will have a profound impact, but every experience offers an opportunity to learn, grow and strengthen those around him. Putting in the work today, he believes, can create opportunities for even greater impact tomorrow.

Community Impact

For the past 10 years, Simon has volunteered with his church's Awana program, mentoring children from third grade through high school and watching many grow throughout their academic journeys. More recently, he and his family began volunteering with the church's youth ministry, working with children in kindergarten through second grade.

Advice

"Whatever you do, approach it with sincerity and dedication. Not everything will make a huge impact, but every experience is an opportunity to learn, grow and build up those around you. The hard work you put in today can help you find even greater success in the future. Also, keep attending class! Don't take shortcuts."



Haydon Hinson

2019 | Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Position

Senior Engineer, Advanced Operations, Stryker

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Connect With Haydon

[LinkedIn.com/in/haydon-hinson-me](https://www.linkedin.com/in/haydon-hinson-me)

Career History

Haydon has focused his career on MedTech, taking on roles ranging from building machines to managing a product line for an implantable device. His career, coupled with his Project Management Institute and American Society for Quality involvement, has led to his relocation from his lifelong home of Arizona to Michigan, where he now develops manufacturing processes for new medical devices at Stryker. Additionally, Haydon creates custom wheelchair costumes for children as part of Allies for All Abilities and Magic Wheelchair and helps shape the culture and employee experience within his division by serving on Stryker's Engagement Committee.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Knowing his work can directly impact patients gives Haydon a strong sense of purpose. Every process he develops and design challenge he helps solve can ultimately affect what happens in an operating room. That impact became especially meaningful when he saw how the suture his team manufactured was being used to help save lives in Ukraine.

Career Philosophy

For Haydon, engineering is about continually improving how things are made while never losing sight of who they're made for. That responsibility drives him to keep learning, solve problems and develop processes that can make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Early in his career, Haydon managed a suture manufacturing line and developed processes that increased monthly output from 10,000 to 40,000 feet without adding headcount. He's also earned his Project Management Professional and Six Sigma Green Belt certifications. Haydon achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in high school, an experience that helped shape his commitment to leadership and service.

Advice

"Never be afraid to fail. Some of the most valuable lessons I've learned didn't come from success; they came when things didn't go as planned. Failure isn't the opposite of success; it's part of it. Be curious, take risks and don't wait for the perfect moment. Your greatest growth will come from the chances you were brave enough to take."



Sara Houston

2020 | Bachelor of Science in Psychology with an Emphasis in Performance and Sport Psychology

Position

Senior Manager, Driver Marketing, National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR)

Industry

Marketing

Connect With Sara

[LinkedIn.com/in/sara-houston-4a6744163](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sara-houston-4a6744163)

Career History

Working closely with drivers, teams and internal business units, Sara creates opportunities that connect fans with NASCAR in authentic ways by focusing on driver marketing, partnerships and strategic initiatives that elevate the sport and its athletes. Her career has been fueled by a passion for motorsports, relationship building and helping others succeed. Beyond her professional responsibilities at NASCAR, Sara looks for opportunities to give back through community engagement and initiatives that uplift others.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Whether she's mentoring teammates, supporting drivers as they build their brands or helping partners bring ideas to life, Sara strives to create an environment where people feel valued and supported. Her faith keeps her grounded and reminds her to lead with humility and focus on the bigger picture.

Career Philosophy

Purpose, integrity and servant leadership shape Sara's approach to her career. She believes consistency, positivity and a willingness to serve others can make a lasting impact. By leading through her actions, Sara hopes to encourage others to pursue their purpose and positively influence their own communities.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Sara helped launch and grow NASCAR's Driver Ambassador Program, increasing driver participation and engagement year over year. She's supported drivers in securing national media opportunities and brand-building moments beyond the track while contributing to major events, partnerships and new market initiatives. Earning her promotion to senior manager has been a particularly meaningful career milestone.

Advice

"Trust God's timing and stay open to where He leads you. You don't need to have everything figured out. Be willing to work hard, stay humble and say yes to opportunities that challenge you. Surround yourself with people who push you to grow and never underestimate the power of showing up with a positive attitude and strong character."



Megan Howell

2025 | Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity

Position

Senior Security Operations Center Analyst, State of Arizona

Industry

Cyber Security

Connect With Megan

[LinkedIn.com/in/megan-howell-cybersecurity](https://www.linkedin.com/in/megan-howell-cybersecurity)

Career History

Megan helps protect against cyber threats, working as a senior security operations analyst for the State of Arizona and completed two internships with Cisco Systems in offensive and defensive security. Her experience includes ethical hacking, vulnerability management, digital forensics, incident response and detection engineering.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Making the digital and physical world safer gives Megan's work purpose, but she's equally passionate about inspiring the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. Through presentations, teaching and mentorship, she enjoys helping others discover the same excitement she's found in the field and encouraging them to see what's possible.

Career Philosophy

Cybersecurity never stops evolving, and Megan believes professionals shouldn't stop learning either. She approaches her career with curiosity, a commitment to continued education and a willingness to share what she learns. She also values building strong professional networks and contributing to a cybersecurity community where knowledge and collaboration help everyone become stronger.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

At GCU, Megan helped create the Threat Intelligence Support Unit, which provides students with cybersecurity training and opportunities to support public and private sector organizations through research and tool development. As a teaching assistant, she supported more than 100 cybersecurity students. In her current role, Megan has led initiatives in threat detection, intelligence sharing and incident response that have increased cyber threat awareness and improved real-time response. She graduated summa cum laude from GCU's Honors College in 2025.

Community Impact

Megan is active in Arizona's cybersecurity community through outreach, conference presentations and mentorship. She's presented to aspiring cybersecurity professionals at events including the Girls in Cyber Summit, GenCyber Day at GCU and the NICE K12 Cybersecurity Conference.

Advice

"Pursue your passions boldly, both in and out of the classroom. Passion and hard work will get you far. Continue pursuing education, whether formal or informal, because there's always something new to discover. And keep building your professional network. The relationships you make along the way can have a meaningful impact on your career."



Kayleigh Hreha

2022 | Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Position

Test Engineer, Forensic Analyst, Axon Enterprise

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Connect With Kayleigh

[LinkedIn.com/in/kayleigh-hreha-663259189](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kayleigh-hreha-663259189)

Career History

Kayleigh discovered her passion early through an internship with Axon while attending GCU, where she participated in medical research involving TASER energy weapons and customer-facing events. After graduation, she joined Fox Factory as a sustaining engineer in its mountain bike division, managing projects designed to improve product lines. She later returned to Axon as a test engineer-forensic analyst, recreating field scenarios involving Axon devices, providing technical education to law enforcement agencies and offering expert testimony.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Knowing her work can directly affect officers, communities and the outcomes of high-stakes cases gives Kayleigh a strong sense of purpose. Because Axon products can be involved in incidents that result in trials, the forensic data and technical expertise her team provides can play an important role in helping others understand what occurred.

Career Philosophy

Kayleigh believes some of the best career opportunities come from being willing to take an unexpected path. Combining engineering with forensic analysis wasn't a traditional direction but embracing that opportunity allowed her to build a career that blends technical expertise, communication and real-world problem-solving.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

During her Axon internship, Kayleigh became the first person to take a full exposure of TASER 7. In 2025, she served as a subject matter expert for the first time. She's also presented technical information to hundreds of law enforcement agencies worldwide and authored numerous reports on behalf of Axon's product line.

Advice

"The best thing I could have done was take a chance on this odd role where I'm using engineering in a forensic setting. So, take the chance and give it absolutely everything you have."



Emily Lister

2025 | Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with an Emphasis in Aerospace

Position

Quality and Manufacturing Engineer, Nautilus Systems, Inc.

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Connect With Emily

[LinkedIn.com/in/EmilyLister09132807](https://www.linkedin.com/in/EmilyLister09132807)

Career History

Emily uses engineering principles and problem-solving skills to resolve non-conformances across production and continually improve product quality. She also uses CAD software to bring parts into production through the company's machine shop.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

For Emily, engineering is most meaningful when solving a problem leads to lasting improvement. Rather than simply correcting an individual issue, she looks for its root cause and works alongside colleagues to find solutions that strengthen the entire system. That collaborative approach has also helped build trust with assembly technicians, encouraging earlier reporting of potential issues and faster resolutions.

Career Philosophy

Emily approaches engineering as an opportunity to serve and honor God through her work. Guided by Colossians 3:23, she believes giving her best effort matters even when the work is challenging or goes unnoticed. For Emily, pursuing excellence isn't simply a professional goal; it's an expression of her faith.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Emily contributed to Nautilus Systems' continued ISO 9001:2015 compliance, including a surveillance audit in May that resulted in zero findings or opportunities for improvement. She also implemented the CNC mill code used to manufacture the latest revision of a core component found throughout the company's machines, creating an improvement with benefits for both Nautilus Systems and its customers.

Advice

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." — Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

"Engineering will always have its ups and downs, but when you give 100% because you want to honor the Lord, your work becomes a form of worship. It may be stressful and your efforts may go unnoticed by others, but what you do matters because you're doing it for Him."



Cole Malizio

2022 | Associate of Arts, South Puget Sound Community College

2025 | Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with an Emphasis in Cybersecurity

Position

Information Security Analyst II, Family Health Centers of San Diego

Industry

Cyber Security

Connect With Cole

[LinkedIn.com/in/victor-malizio](https://www.linkedin.com/in/victor-malizio)

Career History

Cole began his cybersecurity career as an intern with the Arizona Department of Economic Security. By January of his senior year, he was working full time while completing his coursework and an AI-focused capstone project. His experience spans security operations, patch management, identity governance, security awareness and IT process improvement, with a growing focus on AI and automation.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Cole enjoys turning complex security challenges into practical improvements. He's driven by opportunities to learn new technologies, solve problems and develop solutions that make systems more secure, reliable and efficient.

Career Philosophy

Curiosity, ownership and a willingness to learn from mistakes shape Cole's approach to his career. When something doesn't work, he uses the experience to refine the solution and keep moving forward.

Community Impact

Cole and his wife serve as Apartment Life coordinators, hosting events, welcoming residents and helping neighbors connect. Through hospitality and one-on-one relationships, they strive to provide encouragement and support while sharing their faith through service.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Early in his career, Cole took ownership of patch management and rebuilt the program from the ground up. He also strengthened security awareness training, automated major operating system upgrades and helped improve guest access governance, credential handling and application email security.

Advice

"I have everything with Christ and nothing without Him. 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength' (Mark 12:30, NIV). Build relationships, stay connected and invest in others. Unexpected opportunities often come through those relationships. Go beyond the classroom, and never stop learning."



Jace Matteson

2023 | Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Position

Senior Associate Mechanical Engineer, Hubbell Incorporated

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Career History

Jace began his engineering career as an intern, working on prefabrication projects designed to simplify electricians' work in the field. After his internship, he continued part time while completing his studies before transitioning to a full-time role in product design. Today, his responsibilities include overseeing purchase-for-resale projects, collaborating with vendors around the world and developing new products for the electrical market.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

As the youngest person on a team that includes professionals with decades of industry experience, Jace values the opportunity to learn from those around him while contributing fresh ideas and energy of his own. He's seen how a new perspective can challenge assumptions, spark innovation and help others find renewed value in their work.

Career Philosophy

Guided by 1 Timothy 4:12, Jace believes leadership isn't determined by age or experience alone. He strives to set an example through his attitude, actions and response to challenges, recognizing that how he approaches a situation can influence those around him.

Community Impact

Outside of work, Jace and his wife are active in their local church, where they lead a small group and invest in building relationships with others in their community.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Developing his first product has led to three full utility patents as well as multiple provisional patent applications across additional projects. The product is expected to launch within the next year and is designed to fill an unmet need in the industry. Jace has also collaborated with fellow engineers to develop standardized components that can support multiple new products.

Advice

"The journey doesn't end at graduation. Our goal is to honor Christ and share His love. Sometimes where we are isn't where we expected to be, but God places us where we need to be. Trust Him. 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.' — Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)"



Grace Migdol

2024 | Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Advertising

Position

Event Coordinator, Mattel

Industry

Marketing

Connect With Grace

[LinkedIn.com/in/grace-migdol-1b2153251](https://www.linkedin.com/in/grace-migdol-1b2153251)

Career History

Grace launched her career through the Disney College Program, working as a character attendant at Walt Disney World and discovering a passion for creating memorable guest experiences. After completing her studies, she returned to The Walt Disney Company as a college and international programs recruitment intern, gaining marketing experience while supporting recruitment and social media initiatives. She later transitioned into live events, where she now helps bring beloved franchises to life through large-scale experiences that can welcome more than 10,000 guests.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Creating moments people carry with them is what makes Grace's work meaningful. At Disney, that meant helping families experience memorable character interactions and later watching students she recruited discover new career possibilities and lifelong friendships. Today, she finds that same fulfillment in seeing families leave an event smiling. For Grace, those reactions are the most meaningful measure of success.

Career Philosophy

Grace believes memorable experiences have the power to bring people together. Whether she's supporting a guest, encouraging a student or coordinating a major event, she approaches each opportunity with a focus on creating joy, connection and lasting memories.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

During her time with Disney, Grace helped recruit talent for the Disney College Program and supported social media initiatives designed to reach prospective participants. In live events, she's helped coordinate the full lifecycle of large-scale activations in partnership with businesses and nonprofit organizations, creating accessible community experiences that bring well-known brands and characters to life.

Advice

"Network while you can! A connection can go a long way, especially when you're getting started in the workforce. Take advantage of opportunities to meet people through events, office hours and even your classmates."



Jazmin Miguel

2020 | Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Studies, Minor in Pre-Law

Position

Chief Executive Officer, Creative Jazz, LLC

Industry

Entrepreneurship

Connect With Jazmin

[LinkedIn.com/in/jazmin-miguel](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jazmin-miguel)

Career History

Jazmin began her career as a teacher before stepping into a life-changing opportunity working under Charlie Kirk as a social media manager at Turning Point USA. Over three years, she helped launch two departments and build their social media brands from the ground up, gaining experience in strategy, content development and audience growth. That experience ultimately inspired Jazmin to take another leap and fulfill a lifelong dream of entrepreneurship by launching her own social media agency. Today, she uses her expertise in social media strategy and storytelling to help brands and individuals strengthen their online presence and connect with their audiences.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

For Jazmin, her talents are gifts meant to serve others and glorify God. Whether she's telling a story, helping a business grow or encouraging someone to pursue a new opportunity, she finds purpose in using her creativity to make a meaningful impact.

Career Philosophy

Servant leadership has shaped Jazmin's approach to life and work since childhood. Inspired by her father's example and grounded in her faith, she believes success isn't defined solely by achievements, but by how she uses her gifts to encourage, equip and serve others.

Community Impact

Jazmin has volunteered with multiple nonprofits, including It's a Military Life and Hope Women's Center and has served through church music ministry since age 10. She also uses her musical talents to lead worship at funerals and provides social media guidance and coaching to startups and individuals pursuing freelance opportunities.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Jazmin helped launch two social media brands that generated more than 200 million views and grew to over 1.8 million followers in less than three years. She's directed more than 30 social media campaigns for large-scale events, and her work was featured on Fox News in 2025. She's especially proud of launching Creative Jazz, LLC.

Advice

"You can do hard things. Be victimhood's worst nightmare. Work hard but pray even harder. Find your identity in the Lord, and never place it in your job, achievements or relationships. That foundation will carry you through every breakthrough and every setback."



Allen Monroy

2023 | Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with an Emphasis in Cybersecurity

Position

Cyber Systems Engineer, Northrop Grumman

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Connect With Allen

[LinkedIn.com/in/MonroyAll](https://www.linkedin.com/in/MonroyAll)

Career History

For the past three years, Allen has helped develop advanced technologies for secure, classified environments. His work focuses on a wireless communications solution designed to meet stringent government security standards, collaborating with architects, systems engineers and cybersecurity leaders to ensure compliance and mission success. His experience includes vulnerability scanning, security requirements implementation, systems management and integrating cybersecurity tools. He's also led technical demonstrations for stakeholders and helped deliver secure systems into live production environments.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Continuous learning and collaboration give Allen's work meaning. He makes a point of expanding his knowledge beyond his immediate responsibilities and sharing what he learns with fellow engineers. For Allen, individual expertise becomes more valuable when it helps the entire team grow and succeed. That commitment to lifelong learning was inspired in part by his father. Allen says, "Thank you for always believing in me and for always leading by example. Your intelligence, dedication and willingness to learn and expand your knowledge is my greatest inspiration. I have always admired your engineering mindset, curiosity and commitment to growth. In an ever-evolving industry, you have never stopped learning — earning two master's degrees and now pursuing a doctorate. Your dedication to continuous improvement motivates me to approach challenges with the same passion, discipline and drive to keep evolving."

Career Philosophy

Allen approaches cybersecurity with curiosity, adaptability and a commitment to solving complex problems. He believes staying open to new ideas and experiences is essential in a field where technology and threats are constantly changing.

Community Impact

Allen mentors GCU graduates by providing resume and cybersecurity career guidance. He's also worked with Long Beach City College students, helping them understand the industry and identify actionable steps toward cybersecurity careers.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Allen earned his bachelor's degree in just three years and received a promotion less than two years into his career. He's also been recognized three times with the BRAVO to Our Stars Award for exceeding expectations. He's also represented his organization at industry events including Cisco Live and Commercial Solutions for Classified.

Advice

"Always stay persistent and never let anyone define your limits. Breaking into cybersecurity can be challenging, but consistency and determination will set you apart. Never stop learning or seeking hands-on experience. Push beyond your comfort zone, invest in yourself and remember that your growth is driven by your mindset and determination."



Christina Parlock

2019 | Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies

2023 | Juris Doctor, University of Denver

Position

Area Defense Counsel, United States Air Force

Industry

Law

Career History

Christina began her Air Force JAG career overseas in Germany, where she served as a prosecutor and advised commanders on a range of legal matters while providing legal assistance and supporting operational law events. She later transitioned to criminal defense, representing service members across the country in matters ranging from administrative actions to courts-martial. The opportunity to serve on both sides of the courtroom early in her career has strengthened her ability to evaluate cases from multiple perspectives.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Serving those who serve gives Christina's work a strong sense of purpose. As defense counsel, she's especially grateful that service members can receive legal representation regardless of their ability to pay. Knowing her clients can focus on their cases without the financial burden of securing counsel makes her role particularly meaningful.

Career Philosophy

Christina embraces challenging opportunities to grow as both an attorney and advocate. She values the perspective gained from representing different sides of a case and believes each experience strengthens her ability to serve her clients effectively.

Community Impact

While stationed overseas, Christina facilitated a peer-led Bible study and prepared home-cooked meals for new airmen living in the dorms. As military life takes her to new locations, she's committed to building community and finding meaningful ways to serve others wherever she's stationed.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Early in her career, Christina was entrusted with prosecuting a negligent homicide case, an experience that confirmed her passion for litigation. She was later selected ahead of schedule to become an area defense counsel, leaving her overseas assignment to take on the role.

Advice

"Imposter syndrome is real. When doubts creep in, remember that you deserve to be where you are. You belong, you were chosen to be there, and you serve a purpose greater than yourself. God's plan will always be better than yours — maybe you'll even join the JAG Corps!"



Shelby Perry

2018 | Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training

2022 | Master of Science in Kinesiology with an Emphasis in Sport Psychology and Corrective Exercise and Orthopedic Rehabilitation, A.T. Still University

2026 (Projected) | Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences – Exercise and Sport Science, Liberty University

Position

Minor League Athletic Trainer, Boston Red Sox

Industry

Health Care

Career History

Shelby has built her career caring for athletes across multiple levels of Minor League Baseball, progressing through increasingly competitive environments, including Double-A. Her work focuses on helping athletes stay healthy, recover from injuries and perform at their highest level while navigating the physical and mental demands of professional sports.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

For Shelby, meaningful care goes beyond an athlete's physical needs. She strives to be a consistent, supportive presence throughout the challenges of a demanding season, building relationships grounded in trust, respect and genuine connection. Seeing athletes recover, develop and work toward long-term success makes her role especially rewarding.

Career Philosophy

Faith and servant leadership shape Shelby's approach to athlete care. She combines individualized, evidence-based treatment with compassion and consistency, recognizing that every athlete brings different needs, goals and challenges. Her goal is to serve each person with humility while continually growing as a clinician and leader.

Community Impact

Outside of professional baseball, Shelby volunteers through her church. Those experiences reinforce her commitment to approaching every setting with a servant mindset and looking for opportunities to positively impact those around her.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Progressing through multiple levels of Minor League Baseball has given Shelby opportunities to support athlete health and performance in high-demand environments. She's also proud to mentor developing staff while continuing her own education at the doctoral level.

Advice

"Trust that God is working in ways you may not yet understand. Not every step will make sense in the moment, but each one has purpose. Stay faithful in the small things, be patient in the waiting and don't let uncertainty shake your confidence in His plan. Where you are today is part of where you're meant to be, and in time, you'll see how it all comes together."



Alyssa Prentiss

2023 | Bachelor of Arts in Digital Design with an Emphasis in Web Design

Position

UX Designer, Workday

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Career History

Alyssa began her career at Paradox, an Arizona-based AI startup that was acquired by Workday in 2025. Today, she designs frontline employee communications products at the intersection of human resources and AI technology. Drawing on a background in digital and web design, Alyssa combines technical problem-solving with visual storytelling to create digital experiences that make complex tools feel intuitive and useful.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Knowing the products she helps build can improve how frontline employees experience their work gives Alyssa a strong sense of purpose. She's equally energized by the people beside her, finding meaning in creating a team environment where colleagues feel supported, challenged and inspired to do their best work.

Career Philosophy

Human-centered thinking guides Alyssa's approach to both design and teamwork. She believes great products begin with understanding people, while great teams are built through kindness, patience, honest feedback and genuine investment in one another.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Being part of Paradox during its acquisition by Workday was a defining career milestone for Alyssa and validated the work she and her team had helped build. More recently, she's taken the initiative to train fellow designers on emerging AI tools and innovations, helping her team stay current while finding new ways to approach product design creatively.

Advice

"Your degree and job title are just a starting point. They don't define you. The workplace is always changing, and so are you. Don't be afraid to pivot, try something new or head in a direction you never planned. Some of the best opportunities come from staying curious and refusing to box yourself in. Give yourself permission to keep evolving."



Larsa Rasho

2018 | Bachelor of Arts in History and Bachelor of Arts in Communications

2022 | Juris Doctor, George Mason University

Position

Litigation Attorney, State Farm

Industry

Law

Connect With Larsa

[LinkedIn.com/in/LarsaRasho](https://www.linkedin.com/in/LarsaRasho)

Career History

Larsa's legal career began in 2015 as a student worker in GCU's Office of General Counsel. She remained with the office after graduation before attending law school, where she gained experience through a judicial internship and positions with prosecutor and public defender offices and private firms. After law school, Larsa practiced immigration law, advocating for asylum seekers facing political and religious persecution, before transitioning into civil litigation. She's also active in Arizona's legal community through the State Bar of Arizona's Young Lawyers Division and the Assyrian-American Bar Association.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

Some of Larsa's most meaningful experiences came from representing asylum seekers in high-stakes cases that could change the course of their lives. Helping clients facing persecution achieve life-changing outcomes reinforced the importance of thoughtful, committed advocacy and continues to shape how she approaches her work today.

Career Philosophy

Versatility and a willingness to embrace new challenges have defined Larsa's career. Each experience has broadened her perspective and strengthened her skills as an advocate, reinforcing her belief that growth often comes from pursuing opportunities that may not have been part of the original plan.

Community Impact

Larsa is passionate about supporting aspiring lawyers, particularly women and first-generation law students. She makes herself available to share insights and guidance from her own journey and values opportunities to help young attorneys build the connections and confidence needed to navigate the profession.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

In 2025, Larsa reached a significant career milestone when she transitioned into litigation with a major national company. Today, she manages a high-volume caseload involving complex civil matters and continues building the skills and experience she hopes will form the foundation of a long-term career in litigation.

Advice

"'You miss 100% of the shots you don't take' has stuck with me since childhood. Never settle or assume opportunities aren't meant for you. You'll be surprised what happens when you keep pushing forward. The next time you think, 'Why me?' instead ask yourself, 'Why not me?'"



Ted Rifkin

2018 | Economics, Fort Lewis College

2020 | Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics

Position

Owner, True Wealth Group

Industry

Entrepreneurship

Connect With Ted

[LinkedIn.com/in/tedrifkin/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tedrifkin/)

Career History

Ted built his financial services firm from the ground up, growing it to three locations across Arizona and Texas and serving clients nationwide. As an entrepreneur, he focuses on helping families and business owners build and protect wealth with clarity and confidence. He's also built an international real estate portfolio of more than 10 properties.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

For Ted, the greatest reward comes from helping people create greater stability and opportunity for themselves and their families. He's worked with hundreds of families and business owners, including many within the church community, and finds purpose in seeing the lasting impact of those relationships.

Career Philosophy

Ted believes trust begins with genuine care. By listening first, understanding what people need and approaching each relationship with a desire to serve, he strives to create value that extends far beyond business results.

Community Impact

With a ministry-minded approach, Ted participates in philanthropic efforts and charitable missions focused on serving others and furthering the Kingdom. He's especially passionate about using his experience and resources to help families in his church community thrive.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Ted grew his firm to more than seven figures in net profit while creating employment opportunities for other professionals. He became the youngest professional in Mutual of Omaha's history to qualify for its Chairman's Council each year he's been eligible and has earned its highest Court of Honor recognition five consecutive years.

Advice

"People won't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Lead with genuine concern for others and a desire to understand and help. Learn how to meet people's needs, and prosperity will follow."



Emilee Spence

2022 | Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with an Emphasis in Big Data Analytics

Position

Computer Scientist, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Connect With Emilee

[LinkedIn.com/in/emilee-spence](https://www.linkedin.com/in/emilee-spence)

Career History

Emilee works alongside special agents and intelligence analysts to investigate sophisticated ransomware groups, illicit dark web marketplaces and nation-state actors. Using her computer science expertise, she conducts advanced digital forensics, malware and data analysis and custom application development to uncover leads, identify attribution and move investigations forward. She's also a member of the FBI Virtual Currency Response Team and serves as adjunct faculty for the FBI Cyber Division.

What Brings Meaning to Her Work?

For Emilee, computer science provides a powerful way to serve her country and protect others. Knowing her work can help hold criminals accountable, bring justice to victims and safeguard Americans gives even the most challenging investigations a greater sense of purpose.

Career Philosophy

Emilee believes meaningful work begins by finding where your abilities can make an impact. She embraces opportunities to step forward, take on unfamiliar challenges and apply technology in new ways to solve complex problems.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Emilee received a Medal of Excellence for developing innovative tools that streamlined evidence analysis and saved investigators hundreds of hours. One tool earned personal recognition from former FBI Director Christopher Wray. Her work has contributed to indictments, criminal infrastructure takedowns and the seizure of stolen cryptocurrency. She's also presented and taught at conferences and trainings for international partners, federal agencies and local law enforcement.

Advice

"Figure out what you like to do and where you can make a meaningful impact, then pursue it. It'll make the late nights and weekends worth it. When an opportunity comes up, raise your hand and volunteer! Some of my greatest experiences — implementing new technologies, traveling internationally for operations and assisting with high-profile cases — came simply from volunteering. I feel incredibly blessed to serve my country as an FBI computer scientist."



Matthew Tomovich

2022 | Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Position

Nuclear Shift Test Engineer, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Industry

Engineering and Technology

Connect With Matt

[LinkedIn.com/in/matt-tomovich-554a91172/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/matt-tomovich-554a91172/)

Career History

Matthew specializes in nuclear systems aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carriers and Seawolf-class submarines. Working alongside sailors and cross-functional teams, he supervises maintenance and testing, troubleshoots system anomalies and conducts risk assessments to support safe nuclear operations. He also develops and delivers training and helps new hires build their technical knowledge through hands-on instruction.

What Brings Meaning to His Work?

Helping others grow is one of the most rewarding aspects of Matthew's work. He intentionally builds relationships with employees in training, providing feedback and encouragement as they develop their skills. His faith also helps him bring a positive perspective to demanding situations, an approach colleagues have recognized for its impact on the team.

Career Philosophy

Matthew believes strong technical leadership requires both expertise and investment in others. Whether he's overseeing complex testing or training a new team member, he strives to approach each responsibility with preparation, encouragement and a commitment to safety.

Community Impact

Matthew invests in young people and his local community through his church, where he helps lead a middle and high school youth group as well as a community group.

Awards, Accolades and Achievements

Matthew completed an intensive two-year training program to qualify as a nuclear shift test engineer, including extensive classroom and hands-on instruction, written and oral examinations and rigorous technical evaluations. He later helped lead the successful startup of a nuclear reactor and earned an additional qualification for Seawolf-class submarines. Matthew was also inducted into the Ingram Honors College Wall of Fame.

Advice

"Networking is a powerful tool for advancing your career. Take the time to seek and build professional relationships with people in the field you want to pursue — and don't forget your professors! Those connections can get your foot in the door more effectively than submitting an online application where no one knows you."



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