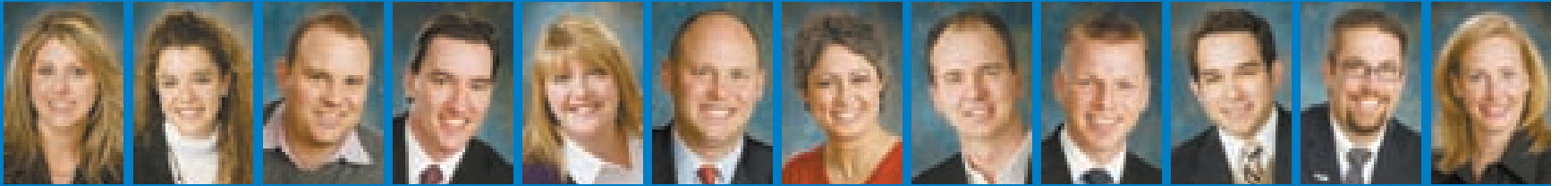




2010

RISING

STARS



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The Colorado Springs
BUSINESS JOURNAL

Welcome to the 2010 issue of the Colorado Springs Business Journal's

RISING STARS

The Rising Stars program recognizes business leaders under 40 who have made significant contributions to their chosen industries and community. On the following pages you will get the chance to learn more about 34 Rising Stars who are making Colorado Springs a better place to live and work.



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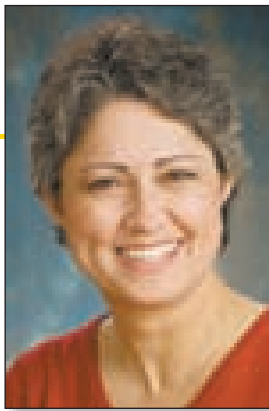
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★ **Alicia Archibald**

President, BETTR Recycling



In 2000, Alicia Archibald envisioned the future of recycling when she became program director for the Clean Air Campaign's BETTR electronics recycling program, the first to implement a computer collection event in Colorado Springs on Earth Day 2001.

Now president of BETTR Recycling Inc., a woman-owned small business providing education and consulting services in recycling, alternative fuels and sustainability planning, she has contracted with private businesses and government agencies to develop programs and materials that provide sustainable solutions for communities, individuals and businesses.

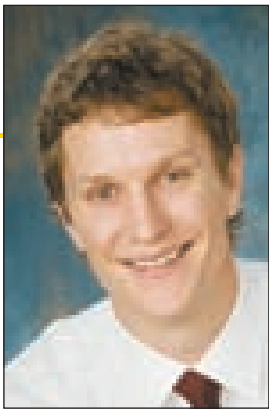
Her projects include sustainability planning for the U.S. Army, the Department of Energy's Clean Cities program and the governor's Energy Office Biofuels Coalition.

A business administration graduate of the University of Phoenix, she remains committed to supporting Colorado communities through involvement with the Colorado Springs' Citizen Transportation Advisory Board, Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee and the Southern Colorado Sustainable Communities conferences. She also serves as a member of the Colorado Association for recycling and its board of directors.

Archibald's dream is to mentor her two children to become leaders of sustainable systems in their personal and professional lives.

★ **Aaron Briggs**

Principal, HB&A



Aaron Briggs is a principal in HB&A, a firm which has provided master planning, architectural and technological services to government and private sector clients in Colorado, nationwide and worldwide from its single office in Colorado Springs for more than 35 years.

Briggs has worked at HB&A since 2003. His father, Ron Briggs, was the firm's sole owner and managing partner until Aaron and eight other staff members invested in the firm as owners during 2007.

"What began in 2007 as a long term transition," said Andrea Barker, also a principal in HB&A who nominated Briggs as a Rising Star, "became a highly accelerated and intense process."

Briggs received his bachelor's degree in environmental science from Willamette University during 2000. He is married to Heather Briggs and has two children, Pete, 7, and Nora, 4.

★ **Justin Burns**

Account Executive, TW Telecom, Inc.



Justin Burns, a Colorado native, thrives in a challenging sales environment.

As an account executive at TW Telecom, Inc., Burns' goal is to win, install and manage new services with noteworthy enterprise.

Throughout his career he has worked to develop interesting partnerships.

Burns also works on developing partnerships outside of work, said Cindy Fowler, who nominated Burns as a Rising Star. Burns works on the City of Colorado Springs Telecommunication Policy Advisory Committee and on the Asset Naming Board. He is on the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Watch Committee and the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, serving as corporate liaison.

When Burns is not working on community and corporate partnerships, he is traveling, enjoying international culture, food, music and art.

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Antonio Colón
CEO and President
Combat Training Solutions
Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist

HB & A is proud of our rising star – Aaron Briggs.

Since joining the firm in 2003, he has become an integral part of the firm's leadership core. He brings his insightful planning and GIS analysis



to projects across the United States and here at home in the Pikes Peak Region. He authored the Falcon Peyton Small Area Master Plan for El Paso County, numerous projects at Fort Carson including the Green Infrastructure Plan, and continues to serve Air Combat Command with development of their Sustainable Development and Design Guidelines. In both his project and company responsibilities, Aaron cultivates expertise and leadership, and applies them in a helpful, perceptive, and technologically innovative manner.

Aaron Briggs, AICP, LEED® AP, Principal

Community Planner, Urban Designer, GIS Analyst
Certified Public Meeting Facilitator and Charrette Planner

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ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, and GIS



★ Gregg Cawfield

Director of Business Banking, Ent Federal Credit Union



Gregg Cawfield is a passionate and innovative leader at Ent Federal Credit Union, where he developed a new business banking department since joining the team during May 2006.

He launched a line of business products and service offerings for Ent business members, and has grown business banking deposits by more than \$85 million and 6,000 new business banking accounts over the past three years.

Cawfield, who has 10 years' experience in the banking industry, as well as a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, focuses on training programs for employees which foster strong customer service.

"Gregg is well-connected in our community and is excellent at forming personal relationships with clients," said Wayne Paton, Ent's vice president of commercial banking and wealth management, who nominated Cawfield. "Because of his honest and trustworthy approach, he is successful in bringing on new accounts and looking out for members' best interests."

Cawfield and his wife, Jannette, enjoy traveling overseas, skiing in Colorado and visiting old mining ghost towns.

★ Heather Davis Benavidez

Event Organizer, Colorado Balloon Classic



Heather Davis Benavidez is flying high with the Colorado Balloon Classic, an event rated in the top 100 in North America.

To pull off the large-scale event, Benavidez is on the phone with pilots from around the world. She leads a team of more than 800 volunteers and secures sponsors for the state's largest air show. She is a member of the Classic's production team and organizes hot air balloon events in Angel Fire, N.M. and for the City of North Las Vegas, Nev., said Patsy Buchwald, Colorado Balloon Classic president, who nominated Benavidez as a Rising Star.

Benavidez, who has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix, worked with the Girl Scouts to develop the "Girl Scout Hot Air Balloon Patch" and she worked on book collection campaigns and drives that donated more than 2,500 books to the Head Start Program and 1,900 books for Stratmoor Hills Elementary School.

Benavidez is married and has a 19-year-old stepson, Isaiah, and a 9-year-old son, Ryan.

★ Julian Flores

Co-Founder and Director of Business Operations, Atlas Preparatory School



Julian Flores' goal is to unequivocally close the achievement gap between low-income students and their affluent peers.

That is why he co-founded the Atlas Preparatory School in southeast Colorado Springs, a new high-performing urban charter school.

Flores, who has bachelor's degree in international relations from Stanford University, founded the Vanguard Consultancy, a consulting group aimed at helping nonprofit agencies develop lasting strategies and leadership.

He has worked with a number of nonprofit boards, including the YMCA, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Festival of Lights.

"I have worked with Mr. Flores for over five years and find him to be one of the most creative, strategic, driven and proven young professionals in the city — and he's only 26," said Zach McComsey, Atlas' executive director who nominated Flores as a Rising Star.

Flores and his wife, Kristen, are expecting their first child in May.

★ Tami Forero

CEO, Forte Events



Tami Forero, the CEO of Forte Events, a full-service event production firm, has been a corporate and independent events producer during the last 17 years.

Christi-Marie Butler, who nominated Forero as a Rising Star, noted that she was a finalist for both the 2006 Event Solutions producer of the year Spotlight Award and the 2008 event production company of the year Spotlight Award.

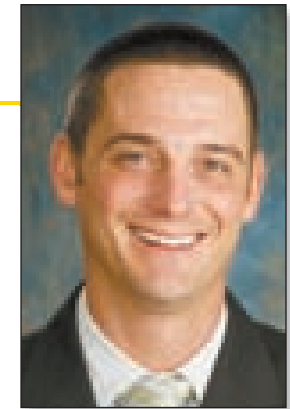
Forero often speaks at national event conferences, and also speaks on a pro bono basis for organizations such as the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the International Special Event Society, and the American Society of Training and Development.

"Tami speaks sign language," said Butler, "and had worked as a translator for families. She also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, Partners in Housing and her church."

A graduate of Trinity International University, Forero has been married to Eddie Forero for 16 years.

★ Jeremy Fritschy

Business Development Manager, SGIS



When SGIS, a company that provides service to the government in the areas of intelligence and homeland security, wanted to open a Colorado Springs office, they sent Jeremy Fritschy to get the job done.

In just one year, Fritschy has secured contracts with Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency.

Fritschy, who has a bachelor's degree in music and recording arts from California State University-Chico, Calif., has four years' experience in government contracting, information technology and technical services industries.

Today, he oversees an office of 10 employees, said Rebecca Amesbury, SGIS vice president of marketing and communications who nominated Fritschy as a Rising Star.

Fritschy and other SGIS employees adopted a U.S. Army platoon and send letters, and care packages to deployed Soldiers. He also is involved with the National Defense Industrial Association and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Fritschy and his wife, Carrie, have a son, Carter.

★ Donna Gibson

Donor Care Specialist, Pikes Peak United Way



Business leaders in Colorado Springs know Donna Gibson well.

She's responsible for the donations to Pikes Peak United Way's leadership fund, which accounts for 42 percent of their donations.

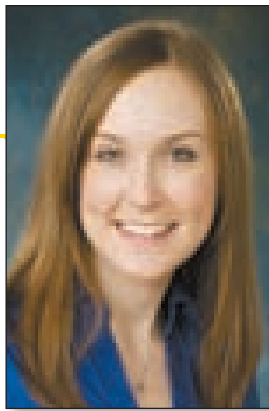
She previously worked as an associate at the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, where she planned events.

Nominated by Lynne Telford, chief operating officer of the United Way, Gibson has more than 10 years' experience with media production, communication and the print industry. She is a graduate of Leadership Pikes Peak and serves on the advisory board for the Pioneers Museum. She also is a board member for DreamPower Animal Rescue and is a member of the Junior League of Colorado Springs.

Gibson husband's name is Steve, and she has a stepson serving in the United States Marine Corps. She also has a yellow lab named Grace.

Hayley Gravette

Associate Executive Director, The Palisades at Broadmoor Park



Hayley Gravette not only works tirelessly in the Colorado Springs community, she has traveled as far as Namibia, Africa, to work for organizations that battle HIV and AIDS.

As the associate executive director, Gravette helped design the Palisades, develop programs and hire and train the staff for the senior care facility. She helped develop a partnership between The Palisades and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs that brings together students, professors and residents.

Under her leadership, the facility received a perfect score from the Department of Public Health and Environment's annual review.

Gravette earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Elon University in North Carolina.

She was nominated to be a Rising Star by Marilyn Newell, a realtor with the Platinum Group.

Melissa Grier

Service Center Manager, Security Service Federal Credit Union



Melissa Grier is a credit to the environment.

As the Service Center manager, Grier led a team that automated documents and procedures, which decreased branch paperwork by 30 percent and saved \$60,000 a year. So successful is her program, it will be rolled out company-wide this year. Grier was also the first in the company to run fully automated, without teller drawers and cash in the vault. This move reduced security risks and improved production by 40 percent.

Grier's community work also makes her a standout. She volunteers with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, is an active classroom consultant for Junior Achievement of Southern Colorado and is an ongoing volunteer, organizing events supporting the soldiers at Fort Carson.

"Melissa is selfless while investing her time in a plethora of community activities," said Rick Weber, Security Service Federal Credit Union senior vice president, who nominated Grier as a Rising Star.

Grier and her husband, Paul, have a 6-year-old daughter, Talia and a 3-year-old son, Paul.

Clarissa Hobson

Senior Financial Planning Advisor, Carnick and Company



Since joining the financial services industry a decade ago, Clarissa Hobson has been called a "role model" for outstanding communication skills and her great ideas.

"She has consistently been promoted to new roles with increased levels of responsibility," said Colorado Springs Sky Sox Baseball assistant general manager, Michael Hobson, who nominated Hobson as a Rising Star.

When she came on board at Carnick and Company in January as senior financial planning advisor, the firm's president Craig Carnick, said Hobson would be key in the firm's goal of assisting clients achieve their full potential.

Hobson is the president-elect of the Junior League of Colorado Springs and chair of the league's Kids in the Kitchen program, a childhood obesity awareness and prevention initiative.

She is married to Michael Hobson.



Congratulations, Melissa!

From all your colleagues at Security Service, FCU



Melissa Grier



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Justin Burns

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2010 Rising Star
AWARD



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Kathryn Houston

President, Empowering Education Inc.



Kathryn Houston empowers kids.

As the co-founder of the nonprofit organization Empowering Education Inc., she goes into schools teaching children how to read, helping with student testing and developing the educational program, Realizing Empowered Achieving Lifestyles, which addresses social and emotional learning.

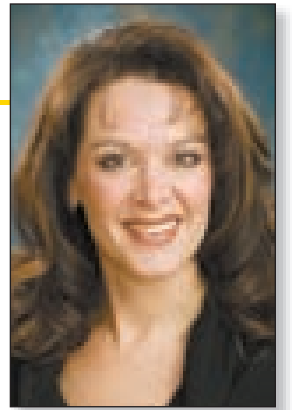
"Her passion and devotion to students, together with her hands-on support in the classroom, was the basis for co-founding Empowering Education Inc.," said Infinity Systems Engineering president Andy Wilfong, who nominated Houston as a Rising Star.

In addition to volunteering in schools, Houston volunteers her administrative services at the Woodmen Valley Chapel, and during the holidays she helped buy, assemble and deliver Thanksgiving meals and Christmas packages to families in Colorado Springs.

Houston has a son, Jaike.

Lana Janc

General Sales Manager, KILO-FM and KRXP-FM



When the boss needs someone to make cold calls, he turns to Lana Janc.

Janc, general sales manager at KILO and KRXP-FM radio stations, started in the radio business 11 years ago. Two promotions later, Janc was consistently No. 1 in billing. In 2008, she was promoted to general sales manager.

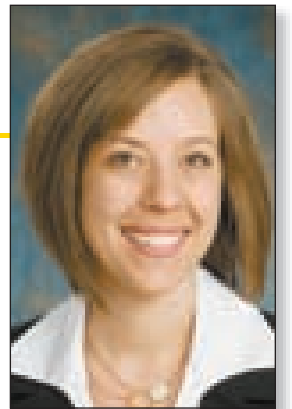
"She successfully navigated her team through the worst recession we've had in decades, to keep KILO the No. 1 billing station in the market," said Lou Mellini, KILO and KRXP-FM general manager who nominated Janc as a Rising Star.

Janc serves on the Small Business Advisory Committee for the Chamber of Commerce, and she works with the Colorado Springs Conservatory. She created the "Munchkins at Memorial" and "Pumpkins at Penrose" Halloween toy drive for children at both hospitals.

Janc and her husband, Jason, have four children, Jessica, Emily, Landon and Patrick.

Jill Johnson

Director of Marketing, Central Bancorp



Central Bancorp director of marketing Jill Johnson has remained at the center of an effort to build the brand of Colorado Springs' newest bank, through positioning and brand development.

The result of her work was a high-impact launch with an immediate market presence.

Johnson's involvement in the marketing and business development strategies of CB Insurance and CB&T Wealth Management helped spur strong organic growth for the bank's 401(k) and insurance divisions.

Her community involvement includes work with the American Heart Association, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Gala, Fine Arts Center Gala and Habitat for Humanity.

Jill has also served as volunteer director of marketing for the non-profit Freedom Foundation and co-chair for the Sales and Marketing Council of the Denver Housing and Building Association.

Her passion is to break the mold of traditional marketing through innovative ways of bringing clients and employees together as grassroots promoters.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!

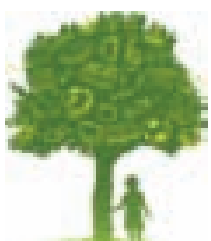


Kathryn "Katy" L. Houston
President
Empowering Education Inc.

To meet the changing needs of the 21st Century student, Empowering Education Inc. (a nonprofit organization), has developed an engaging and experiential curriculum for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The course, titled Realizing Empowered, Achieving Lifestyles (REAL) fully supports the practice of SEL.

Katy is a co-founder of Empowering Education Inc. and is guiding development of the curriculum. She is leading a successful campaign to implement the curriculum into local high schools with an initial offering scheduled at Doherty HS for the fall semester/2010.

Katy has volunteered as an administrative assistant at Woodmen Valley Chapel and has dedicated countless hours at Scott Elementary in Colorado Springs helping children in the areas of literacy, testing, and hands-on classroom activities. Katy's passion and devotion to helping students, combined with her hands-on classroom support, was the premise for co-founding Empowering Education Inc.

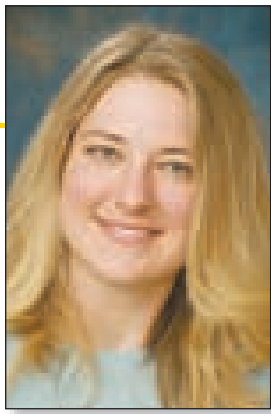


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Jessica Johnson-Simmons

2-1-1 Center Manager, Pikes Peak United Way



Jessica Johnson-Simmons has spent her career serving people in need. As the 2-1-1 Center manager for Pikes Peak United Way, she developed the Adult Resources for Care and Help and Special Needs Emergency Evacuation Registry. In 2009, more than 27,000 calls came into the call center.

Johnson-Simmons developed a strategic plan for the Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management and created mass casualty response plans for a nine-county region. Johnson-Simmons doesn't just design the response plans, she puts them into action, according to Anne Beer, Pikes Peak United Way director of community information systems, who nominated Johnson-Simmons as a Rising Star.

"Jessica was deployed for three weeks to Mississippi with the Colorado Springs Fire Department to aid in the recovery efforts of Hurricane Katrina," Beer said.

In her off-work time, Johnson-Simmons volunteers her grant-writing expertise to local nonprofit agencies and was a course marshal during the Winter Park Mountain Bike Series.

Johnson-Simmons and her husband Matt have two cats and two dogs.

Todd Karl

Commercial Banking Assistant, Relationship Manager, U.S. Bank



Todd Karl takes on U.S. Bank's more complex credit requests.

As the commercial banking assistant relationship manager, Karl reviews existing loans and assures the bank's credit quality standards remain superior, said U.S. Bank market president Tom Naughton, who nominated Karl as a Rising Star.

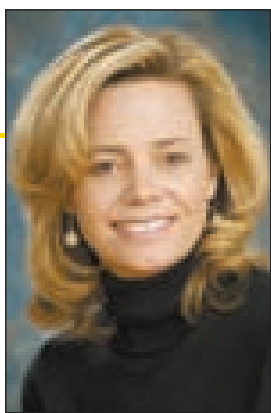
Karl works with the bank's private client group in preparing and reviewing requests for credit.

Karl is on the board of directors for Urban Peak of Colorado Springs, an organization that assists with homeless and runaway youth in the Pikes Peak region. He also is a volunteer with Junior Achievement, the National Teach Kids to Save Day and Make a Difference Day.

Karl and his wife, Kara, have two dogs.

Tiffany Lachnidt

The Distinctive Group, Owner and Team Leader



A Colorado native, Tiffany Lachnidt has spent most of her life in Colorado.

She graduated from Cheyenne Mountain High School and Arapahoe Community College, where she was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society before attending Colorado State University.

When she first entered the real estate industry just four years ago, the market was very different. A year into the business, she and her team began to see the signs of change, and shifted soon after into the distressed sellers' market.

Since then, her Distinctive Group real estate team has grown to four licensed agents and two full-time staff members. During early 2009, she was recruited by ReMax Properties, Inc. to help teach in-house and other agents about how to expand into the specialized field of distressed real estate sales.

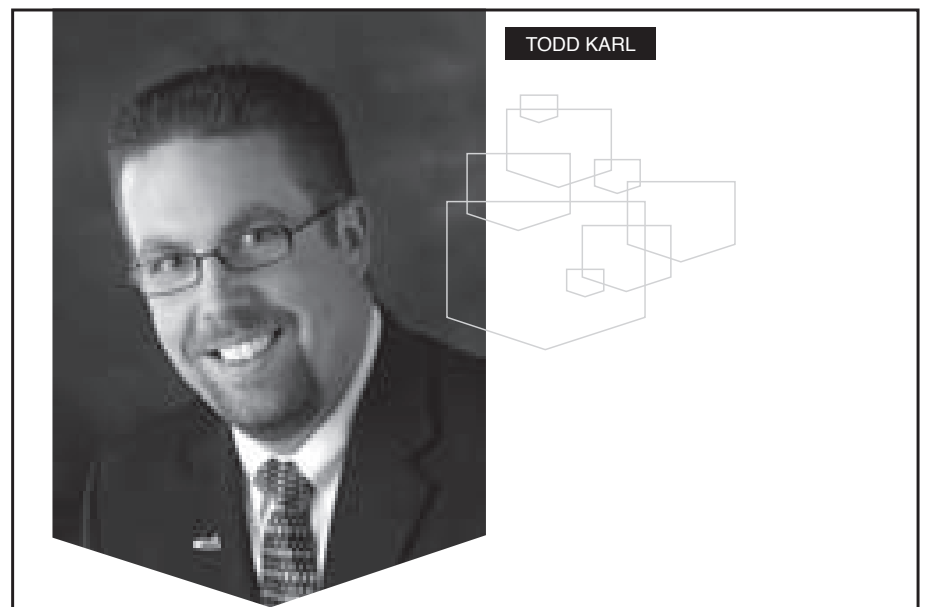


Tiffany B. Lachnidt

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TODD KARL

All of US applauding you

U.S. Bank congratulates one of its employees at the Colorado Springs Exchange office, Todd Karl, for being recognized by the Colorado Springs Business Journal as a 2010 Rising Star. We applaud Todd for receiving this honor as a result of his professional accomplishments and his involvement in the community. **Bravo!**

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★ Jonathan Lapworth

Senior Tax Consultant, Stockman Kast Ryan



Jonathan Lapworth is a senior tax consultant and certified public accountant with Stockman Kast Ryan & Co.

Lapworth's niche is developing strong client relationships, and he has extensive experience with individual, business and corporate tax preparation. He also assists new and existing businesses with expansion to other states or regions.

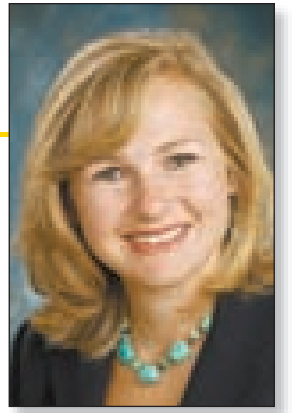
As treasurer of the Wild Forever Foundation in Colorado, Lapworth has helped support rehabilitation effort for wild animals in metro areas as well as in the wild, and provides educational information regarding injured or orphaned wildlife. He also participates in fundraising efforts as a member of the Colorado Springs Kiwanis club.

His wife's name is Angela.

During his free time, Lapworth enjoys playing ice hockey, classical piano and classical guitar.

★ Kristen McGee

Development Director, Northern Churches Care



As development director for Northern Churches Care, Kristen McGee wears many hats.

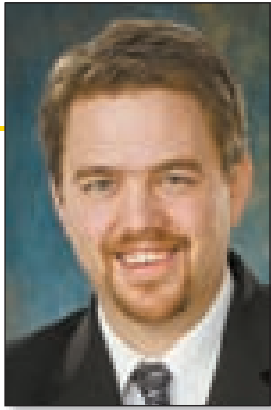
She creates and coordinates events. She has created marketing tools, including a newsletter, the organization's annual report, and its Web site. She researches, writes grants and serves on the board of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

McGee honed her skills during a two-year stint as an El Pomar Foundation fellow. She was one of a handful of successful applicants selected from a national pool. During that time, she served as director of the El Pomar Youth in Community Service program, leading a staff of 21 and overseeing 140 high school clubs in 50 Colorado counties.

"Everyone wants to work with her," said Andy Petersen, who nominated McGee as a Rising Star. "Not only is she a joy to work with, but she has strong ideas that work. Her attention to detail is a true blessing."

★ Justin Leveille

Chief Operating Officer, The Corundum Group



As chief operating officer for The Corundum Group, Justin Leveille manages the day-to-day operations of the securities and exchange-regulated registered investment advisory firm that has about \$600 million in assets under management.

He has developed custom tools to integrate data reported from various custodians and software systems and implemented and integrated new document management software housing sensitive client documents.

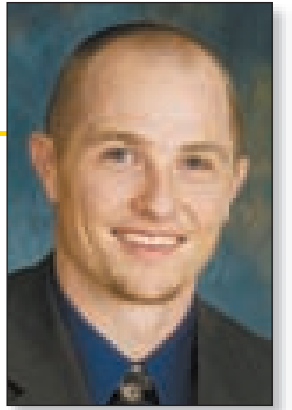
A graduate of Notre Dame University in business administration, he holds a master's degree in business administration.

Justin has also assisted in rewriting a compliance manual and program to update U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

Outside business hours, he has cared for a developmentally disabled adult and has been involved with Roundup Fellowship, an organization for the developmentally disabled. He also is among the United Way's Leaders in Giving and table captain for Friends of Scouting for the Boy Scouts of America.

★ Mike McNew

President and CEO, McNew and Associates, Inc.



Mike McNew might operate out of Colorado Springs, but he has clients across the country.

McNew is running an ever-expanding government contracts consulting firm and recently secured his firm as a subcontractor on the AMCOM Express contract, said his wife Lisanne McNew, who is a University of Colorado director of placement and who also nominated her husband as a Rising Star.

McNew is a member of the Colorado Homeland Defense Alliance, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Small Business Advisory Council and the Colorado Springs Technology Incubator.

McNew and his wife Lisanne have two sons, Landon, 6, and Rylan, 3.

★ Aimee Liotino

Volunteer Center Manager, Pikes Peak United Way



Aimee Liotino knows she can make a difference — and she wants you to also.

As volunteer center manager at Pikes Peak United Way, she oversees 133 agencies that register and request community volunteers. She coordinates the largest volunteer effort in the Pikes Peak region, "Make a Difference Month," which involves several thousand volunteers. She took the movement a step further with the days of service event that creates awareness of volunteer opportunities year-round.

From serving on the Bear Creek Dog Park Advisory Board to creating the Women Build committee for Habitat for Humanity, Liotino's days are filled with community service.

She volunteers for the Pikes Peak Humane Society, the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon, DreamPower Animal Rescue and was on the DreamCity 2020 committee.

Liotino has a degree in broadcast journalism from Pittsburgh State University.

★ Jon Rick

Vice president Operations/partner, Integrated Lawn and Tree Care



Jon Rick puts his money where the median is.

Rick, vice president of operations and partner of Integrated Lawn and Tree Care, adopted all the medians along Cascade Avenue, from Jackson to Uintah streets.

Rick, who has a bachelor's degree in business finance from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, is a certified operator in turf and ornamental spraying.

"He is one of seven certified turf grass professionals in Colorado for cool season lawns, which involves passing two proctored exams covering all aspects of caring for turf," said Hoff and Leigh President Tim Leigh, who nominated Rick as a Rising Star.

In addition to adopting medians, Rick helped organize a clothing drive for the homeless with Timberline Landscaping and helped sponsor a golf tournament for Hope and Home. Rick also donated his services to local charity auctions, including "a family affair," which raised more than \$100,000.

★ **Tammy Rivera**

CPA, Manager, BKD Health Care Group, LLP



When it comes to adding up the numbers, Tammy Rivera is tops.

As a CPA and manager at BKD Health Care Group, she has developed a diverse practice of health care clients, including governmental, not-for-profit hospitals, mental health centers, ambulatory surgery centers, foundations and case management organizations.

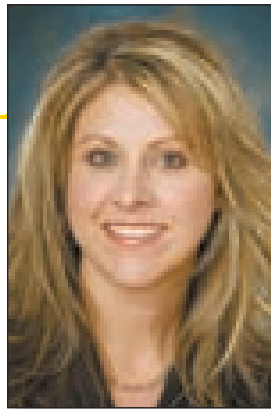
“Tammy is an excellent leader for BKD’s Health Care Group,” said BKD Health Care Group CPA Kimberly McKay, who nominated Rivera as a Rising Star.

Rivera is on the board of directors for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado, where she serves on the finance committee and the scholarship committee. She raised more than \$2,000 to support a co-worker’s family, that stayed in the house while their child received cancer treatment.

Rivera and her husband, Ralf, have a newborn daughter Alyna.

★ **Amber Robinson**

Senior Communications Consultant, West Tech Communications



Amber Robinson is the voice of the West Tech Communications company. She has 15 years’ experience in telecommunications project management, as well as experience in professional voice-over, which makes her the voice of customized marketing, message-on-hold, and television commercials.

“She is highly skilled in the professional, consultative sales process involving a wide range of technological solutions,” said West Tech Communications President Patrick Galvin, who nominated Robinson as a Rising Star. “She is well-balanced in new business development and customer retention.”

Robinson has built up an extensive network of referral partners and business resources, and she is a member of the City of Colorado Springs Telecommunications Policy and Advisory Committee. In the community, she volunteers at Holmes Middle School and participates annually in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Robinson and her husband, Kelly, have two sons, Chandler and Cody.

★ **Matthew Roselle**

District Manager, Farmers Insurance Group of Companies



Matthew Roselle is a top performer, and he motivates his team to high levels of individual and group performance.

Since 2004, Roselle has developed 24 Farmers Insurance Group agencies. Along the way, he was ranked a performer in the top 5 percent and grew business by 200 percent, said Jerrad Bridgmon, Strategic Financial Partners financial adviser who nominated Roselle as a Rising Star.

Roselle oversees a team of 80 agents and staffers and he sees himself as a coach and mentor who motivates his team, which has a premium base of more than \$40 million in contracts. He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Denver.

Roselle volunteers with March of Dimes Southern Colorado, and is a member of the Colorado Springs Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Roselle and his wife, Stacey, have a 4-year-old son, Colin.

Raising the bar in business accomplishments and community service!



Amber Robinson
Communications Consultant
West-Tech Communications

West-Tech Communications is very proud of Amber Robinson and her many accomplishments in telecommunications and service to our community.

Amber has 15 years’ experience in Converged Technology Systems sales and project management. She is a consistent sales leader and has extensive experience in serving the healthcare, education, finance and non-profit sectors.

Amber is an active member of the Chamber Rising Professionals, Strictly Business Leads Group, City of Colorado Springs Telecommunications Policy and Advisory Committee and is a supporter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

— **Patrick Galvin**
President, West-Tech Communicatons



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experience **commitment**



BKD congratulates Tammy Rivera for being named a 2010 Rising Star by the **Colorado Springs Business Journal** for her commitment to professional excellence and community involvement with causes like the Ronald McDonald House and Rocky Mountain Health Care Services. Our firm’s reputation may be expanding nationally, but as Tammy demonstrates, our heart is always in the communities where we work and live.

Colorado Springs
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experience **BKD** LLP
CPAs & Advisors

The Power of Experience The Power of Expertise A Commitment to our Community



NAI Highland, LLC would like to congratulate our Rising Star

Michael P. Suggs
Broker Associate

Mike has been a commercial real estate broker in the Pikes Peak Region since 2003. He is currently volunteering his time to the "Reach Your Peak" scholarship program at UCCS and the "2011 U.S. Women's Open" at The Broadmoor.

NAI Highland, LLC

Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide



Two North Cascade Avenue, Suite 300
Colorado Springs CO 80903-1618
Michael P. Suggs (Direct Line) 719.667.6876
mikesuggs@highlandcommercial.com
www.highlandcommercial.com



★ **Carrie Simison-Bitz**

Associate Publisher, Colorado Springs Independent

Carrie Simison-Bitz, has helped transform the Independent from a feisty, often controversial, small-circulation weekly into the media powerhouse it is today.

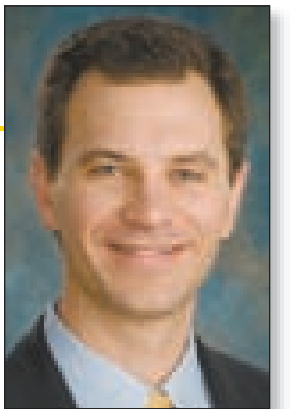
Simison-Bitz joined the Independent 12 years ago as a graphic designer, and after a series of promotions, was appointed associate publisher during 2007.

"Carrie is the internal glue that holds things together," said Kristy Milligan, who nominated Simison-Bitz as a Rising Star. "She's the energy behind the creative direction for the publication, and the perfect community liaison."

A graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership's community leadership program, Carrie also serves on multiple boards and committees, including the Imagination Celebration leadership council, the Downtown Partnership general marketing committee and as a board member and liaison for the Independent's Community Fund. She helped launch the newspaper's GIVE! initiative, which raised more than \$180,000 for 29 local non-profits.

"She also has an interesting history of making authentic connections with individuals in need and helping them navigate elaborate systems to enhance their lives and avoid poverty," Milligan said. "She's amazing."

Simison-Bitz lives in Manitou Springs with her husband, Dave, and two cats.



★ **Jameson Smith**

Chief Operating Officer, Penrose-St. Francis Health Services

Jamie Smith cuts out wasted productivity with the precision of a surgeon.

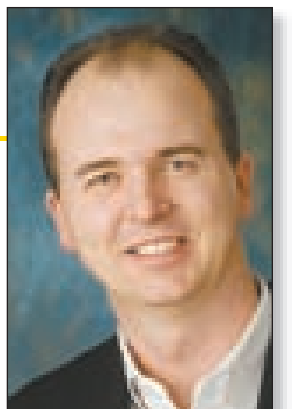
As chief operating officer for Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, he improved the hospital's operating efficiency enough to double 2009's bottom line.

He was instrumental in the opening of St. Francis Medical Center, the only full-service hospital in northeast Colorado Springs.

He also was instrumental in bringing Cyberknife to the Penrose Cancer Center. A robotic laser used to treat tumors, CyberKnife is considered to be one of the most technologically advanced weapons used to fight cancer.

Smith is a board member of the Penrose-St. Francis Health Services Board of Trustees and a board member for the Community Health Partnership Board of Trustees. He is on the Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care Board and is a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International.

Smith's wife, Anne, is a Level 1 surgical trauma ICU nurse at St. Anthony's Central.



★ **Duncan Stewart**

President and CEO, Colorado Springs Technology Incubator

Duncan Stewart is the face of entrepreneurship in the Pikes Peak region. As president and CEO of the Colorado Springs Technology Incubator since March 2007, he has been a high energy moving force, bringing recognition and collaboration to the community.

"Duncan leads by example and truly has an outstanding ability to see things the way they could be and inspire others to come along side to move the community forward together," said Roger Neeland, CSTI program director, who nominated Stewart. "He has pulled together strong willed entrepreneurs, elected community officials, university leaders and others in cooperative activities to create new capabilities and attitudes well beyond his formal position at the incubator. Duncan has great vision and leads by example."

Stewart and his wife, Kathy, have four children: Zack, Lexi, Tori and Zane.

strength compassion hope innovation expertise

Congratulations to Our Rising Star!

Jamie Smith
Chief Operating Officer
Penrose-St. Francis Health Services

Thanks for all you do Jamie!

Amber Strang

Senior Vice President, Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc.



Amber Strang's talents encompass a broad array of professional and academic accomplishments — most garnered within the first 10 years of her career.

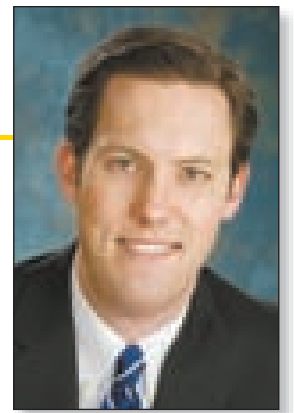
This Jones Lang LaSalle Americas' senior vice president earned her bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in marketing from Southern Methodist University in 2002. She earned her master's in business administration from Baylor University during May 2007.

The Tennessee native moved to Colorado during 2008, fresh from earning Top Five producer honors in the J.L.L. Dallas corporate office for 2007 and the city's "Top 35 under 35" recognition as an industrial broker.

She currently leads her company's tenant representation group, working closely with the firm's strategic alliance clients in areas such as office location, leasing or identification of real estate cost savings.

Michael Suggs

Associate Broker, NAI Highland, LLC



Michael Suggs is all about making connections. As an associate broker for NAI Highland, Suggs is a member of the Pikes Peak Association of Realtors and serves on the board of directors of the Realtors Commercial Industrial Society.

Within the community, Suggs is helping college students get connected to financial help.

"Michael proudly volunteers his time to the Reach Your Peak Scholarship" at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs," said 2011 U.S. Women's Open Sales Director Laura Caleal, who nominated Suggs as a Rising Star.

Suggs, who has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, Calif., also volunteers with the 2011 U.S. Women's Open sales committee and helped plan and organize the 2009 St. Mary's High School reunion weekend.

Timothy Stroh

Vice President, Source Architechnology Systems



Just drive around town and you'll see some of Timothy Stroh's work.

As principal architect at Source Architechnology Systems, he has worked on the Metropolitan Restaurant, Giddings Lofts and the Red Rock Open Air Pavilion to name a few. Since he founded the firm in 2004, he has been responsible for all designs and projects.

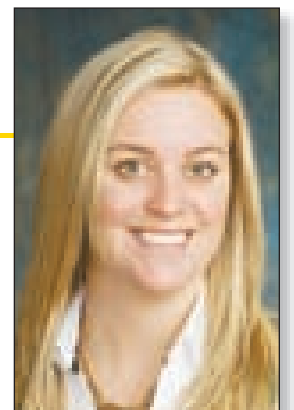
Stroh is becoming a leading figure in preservation architecture and he has completed 20 major preservation and sustainable construction projects throughout the state. He earned the 2009 Historic Preservation Alliance Excellence for Historically Compatible New Construction award for the East Las Animas street renovation.

Stroh's influence goes well beyond his projects as he sits on the Colorado Springs Planning Commission, the Development Review Enterprise Customer Advisory Committee and the Affiliated Commercial Construction Associations Board.

When he can, he gets out on the road for long-distance motorcycle touring. "The best day is the day where you don't have to double back and you just keep on going," he said.

Holly Trinidad

Co-owner, Hoff & Leigh Real Estate



Holly Trinidad entered commercial real estate at Hoff & Leigh in mid-2007, and today is a majority co-owner in the firm.

She has already earned recognition as one of the top female producers in the Colorado Springs market and handles more than 50 landlord representation accounts.

She expects to have five new offices open by the end of 2010. The firm's first new franchisee opened near Akron, Ohio, in 2009.

"We've adjusted our original business plan to fit the current economy, but we're still planning to open new offices this year," she said.

In addition to a busy career, Trinidad is very active volunteer in the Colorado Springs community. She serves on the local American Red Cross chapter's board of directors, and serves as the Marketing Fulfillment committee chairwoman for the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corp.

Holly is married to R.D. Trinidad and is the proud owner of two Corgi puppies, Hurley and Frank.

2009 RISING STARS

- Scott Dale Anderson
- Trinity Bradley-Anderson
- Christi-Marie Butler
- Ivy Canady
- Brian Chester
- Deanna Cordo
- Amber Cote
- Timothy Cross

- Michael W. Deen
- Deanna DeLarge
- Amy Dinofrio
- Natalie Eckharts
- Deborah Helton
- Jayne Ann Holligan
- Greg Kalkwarf
- Sarah Ann Keith

- Tyler D. Kraemer
- David P. Kunstle
- Peter Maiurro
- Stephanie Mares
- Eleanor Martinez
- Judy Mattie-Brackel
- Carrie McKee
- Tim Merritt

- Jay Olson
- Kathleen Elizabeth Owings
- Matthew Person
- David M. Pump
- Crystal Schnurr
- R.D. Trinidad
- Delaney Utterback
- Sandy Wenger



Consistency Counts

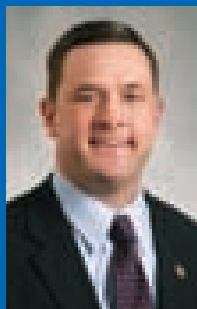
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