

2020s

Catherine “Cassie” Cunningham, MBA '22, Assistant Director in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at The University of Akron, was recently awarded the Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) New Member Award during the OACAC Annual Conference. Cunningham serves on the OACAC Executive Committee, sits on the Planning Committee for the OACAC Annual Conference, chairs the Professional Development Committee, and has served as a mentor for incoming admissions professionals.



Madison N. LaCourse, BSA '22, has been hired as staff accountant, assurance and advisory services at Bober Markey Fedorovich, a national Top 200 CPA and advisory firm.

Kathy L. Murphy, BM '22, was recently named high school band director at Chesterfield in South Carolina.

Sanjiv Tewari, MSL '22, has been appointed chief medical officer (CMO) at HCA Florida Blake Hospital. Tewari brings a wealth of experience and expertise in clinical medicine and health care administration to this key leadership position. Tewari will oversee all aspects of medical operations, playing a crucial role in maximizing the hospital's clinical performance and patient experience while fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement.



Haley J. Bonnot-Orr, J.D. '24, recently passed the Ohio State bar exam. She began her career at Black McCuskey Souers & Arbaugh, LPA, as a law clerk in 2023 and is now an associate. She focuses her practice in the areas of business and corporate law, litigation and real estate law. Black McCuskey delivers legal assistance to individuals, businesses, professional associations and public agencies.

Xul Perez, J.D. '23, M.T. '23, became staff attorney at the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic at Community Legal Aid Service (CLAS) in Akron last August. Perez can make a difference in his own community by assisting low-income taxpayers with IRS's controversies, educating about tax rights and responsibilities and advocating for equitable tax policies.

Samantha M. Rathburn, M.T. '20, was promoted from CPA tax services, to director at Bober Markey Fedorovich. Rathburn focuses on serving a variety of industries including service, manufacturing, distribution, real estate, investment companies and restaurant hospitality. Her expertise includes C-corporations, S-corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships and multi-state companies.

Marc L. Smith, Jr., B.F.A. '24, is the graphic designer and illustrator on a creative team called The Disco Dinos that won the grand prize in the international Portfolio Night All-Stars Bootcamp competition sponsored by The One Club for Creativity. Smith, along with his four teammates, conceived a playful prom-themed multi-channel campaign geared toward teens. The campaign is built on whimsical typography with expressively doodled art and lettering, grounded in a collegiate color scheme of dark and light blue with gold accents.

MISC.

The following UA alumni were selected to the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2024:

- **Tenille N. Kaus**, JD '05, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Advancement at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- **Mindy S. Marsden**, BSA '08, Partner at Bober, Markey, Fedorovich
- **Laura J. Paszt**, MT '09, Managing Partner at Cleveland, Deloitte
- **Tari S. Rivera**, AAS '81, BCT '82, MBA '88, President at Regency Construction Services, Inc.

The Greater Akron Chamber's "30 for the Future" awards recognized the following UA alumni for their achievements in 2023.

- **Tyler M. Adams**, BA '15, Director of Corporate Partnerships, Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio
- **Michael J. Appleman**, MAE '15, Director of Primary Care Education, NEOMED
- **Rebecca A. Cool**, BASW '16, MSW '19, Director of Services, Victim Assistance Program
- **Thomas J. Dolezal**, BA '09, Investor Relations Consultant, FirstEnergy
- **Brittany Ferguson-Mike**, MSE '13, Director, Student Life, The University of Akron
- **Amina Hall**, BA '11, VP of Fund Development and Marketing, Akron Urban League
- **Daniel J. Hampu**, BA '09. MBA '14, President and CEO, Burton Morgan Foundation
- **Kerri A. Stephen**, BA '13, Chief Development Officer, United Way of Summit & Medina

The largest annual gathering of Cleveland's ethnic leaders and grassroots assembled April 18, 2023, for the annual Cleveland International Hall of Fame

induction ceremony. The 2023 Class of the Cleveland International Hall of Fame consist of the following UA alumni:

- **Sudarshan R. Sathe**, MS '83, MBA '89 – Indian community inductee
- Mayor **Georgine Welo**, BA '95 – Serbian community inductee

Akron Municipal Court partnered with Akron-Summit County Public Library and joined forces in creating storybook weddings for local couples this past April.

The judges officiating were:

- Judge **Annalisa J. Williams**, MA '80, MD '84



- Judge **Nicole A. Walker**, BA '98, JD '06



Additionally, April 6, 2023, marked National Library Workers Day and National Library Week ran April 23 through April 29, 2023. Both judges are avid readers and passionate about literacy.

Alumni **Marlena M. Gouin**, MS '11 and husband Phillip J. Gouin, BS '12, welcomed their son, Robert Thomas “Robbie” Gouin into the world on January 30, 2023.



Holly M. Baer, J.D. '23, recently passed the Ohio State bar exam. Baer began her career at Black McCuskey Souers & Arbaugh, LPA as a summer associate in 2022. Baer focuses her practice in the areas of business, estate planning and real estate.



Cassandra A. Meyer, J.D. '22, attorney-adviser for the NASA Office of the General Counsel, supports NASA's efforts to collaborate with commercial industry at NASA's Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Miss. Meyer's responsibilities include advising and counseling in areas such as commercial partnerships, FOIA, environmental law, safety and security, export control, ethics and memoranda of understanding and other agreements in furtherance of NASA's strategic goals.



Nina A. (Barnes) Reinbolt, B.A.E. '20, and **Grant A. Reinbolt**, B.S.E.E. '20, were married on April 13, 2024. The celebration was full of family and friends, including the close friendships made at The University of Akron. Dessert included Zippy cookies!



Former U. S. President, Joe Biden, signed a measure honoring one of Akron's pioneering Black elected officials, naming the city's main mail facility the Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building. Judge Williams was a legal luminary, whose unwavering dedication to justice paved the way for future generations of leaders in Akron and across the country. Williams, B.A.E. '60, J.D. '65, was a civil rights leader, a former Akron city councilman and the first African American to serve as a Summit County Court of Common Pleas judge. He was among the first African Americans to graduate from the University of Akron School of Law after it became affiliated with the University in 1959.

