

# 1997

## Spring 2017

### REUNION YEAR

Hopefully, many of you caught the movie “Zootopia” when it was in theaters last year. **Ernie Petti** had a nice film credit as technical supervisor. “Zootopia” took home the gold at this year’s Academy Awards, earning the Oscar for “Best Animated Picture.” Congrats, Ernie!

**Joy Malek Oldfield** is a judge with the Akron Common Pleas Court, a seat she won in this November’s election. “I’m excited to take on the new challenge,” said Oldfield, who took the bench Nov. 30. “It’s been several years since I’ve been a member of this court, but my entire practice as an attorney was here, and I served in the general division for a year as a magistrate and judicial attorney, so I’m familiar with the docket.” Joy received her bachelor’s degree in sociology with a concentration in criminology. Afterward, she enrolled at The University of Akron School of Law. “I didn’t always plan to be a lawyer. It was a last-minute decision in college,” she said. Originally, Joy was elected to the Akron Municipal Court in November 2011, taking the bench in January 2012 and becoming administrative/presiding judge in 2015.

**Brian Polian**, who spent the past four years as the head football coach at the University of Nevada, is now the special teams coordinator for the University of Notre Dame’s football team.

**Thomas Frazier II**, Ph.D., joined Autism Speaks as the organization’s chief science officer. Frazier had been with Cleveland Clinic Children’s, where he has directed the Center for Autism and Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health since 2013. Previously, he was the autism center’s research director.



Don’t forget to mark your calendars for reunion this summer – June 23-25.

If you have any news to share, please let me know. Thanks.

*Brian*

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**Lauren (Lozano) Ziol**, a designer, owns Lauren Lozano Ziol Interior Design in Chicago. Previously, she was a designer at Leslie Jones & Associates and Scott Himmel, Architect. She also was a contributing writer for Design Times and Chicago Social magazines, an antiques dealer at Rita Bucheit, LTD, and a fine and decorative arts assistant with Wolf's Auctioneer in Cleveland and Oxford Antique & Design Center in the U.K.

Pittsburgh-based Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC named **Kevin P. Kinross** a senior adviser in its state government relations group. He has more than 10 years of political campaign management experience and is a reelection campaign manager for Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. He also was chief of staff for Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and served as a special assistant to Gov. Ed Rendell.

**Laurie Urraro** graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011 with a Ph.D. in peninsular Spanish literature and culture and is teaching full time as a Spanish professor at Penn State Behrend (a branch campus of Penn State) in Erie, Pa., (where she's from). She's in the process of writing her first book and is having a lot of fun teaching and researching. She's also getting married this July and plans to live in North East, Pa.

**Erin Beirne Estes**, a recruiter at the Cleveland Clinic, is responsible for the hiring of non-nursing staff for the west and south Family Health Centers. Erin and her husband, John, welcomed a baby boy, Cayden Michael, their third child, Oct. 22, 2011.

**Sarah Lundeen Bonnette**, who married earlier last year, had a baby girl, Kaitlynn Leona, Jan. 2.

**Sheri (Kilarsky) Terens** and her husband, Rick, had their first child, Eva Noel, Dec. 28. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 inches long.

My wife, **Anmarie Tirpak**, who works for the Department of Veterans Affairs, was promoted to rating veteran service representative. It's a big step up, so while I miss her during her two months of training away from home, I know she's going to do well.

Our 15-year reunion is coming June 15-17. Check the website, [jcu.edu/reunion](http://jcu.edu/reunion), for more information. I hope to see you there. Keep sending me updates.

*Brian*

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## Winter 2011

### Reunion Year

Hi, everyone. I received an extensive update from **Susan (Okuley) Paz: Karen Thompson-Shaheen** is the chief program and operations officer at NewBridge, a program in Cleveland that provides after-school arts programming for high-school students and vocational training for adults. She has found her new position to be quite a learning experience but is enjoying it.

**Nikki (Nicholas) Custy** is busy with her three boys and still finds time to work part time as a technical writer and teach Irish fiddle lessons. Nikki will be competing in an international music competition with her band, the Burning River Ceili Band, in Ireland this summer.

**Meghan Sweeney** is an associate professor of English at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where she's been teaching since 2003. Meghan and her partner, Nick, went on their annual south Texas trip this summer and saw **Monica Dragoman** in New York City. Monica is the division director of Family Planning in the Department of Ob/Gyn at Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. When she's not busy delivering babies and teaching medical students about women's health, she stays centered doing Bikram yoga.

**Erika Bauer** lives in Bethesda, Md., and works at the National Zoo in Washington with endangered Asian carnivores. Erika has been interviewed by NPR several times for her work with the zoo and is one of the few in the world who has shipped a live, giant panda to China.

**Lynn Rutledge** works for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Columbus, Ohio, as an occupational therapist, working with adults and overseeing therapy services for four shelter workshops. Lynn also welcomed an adorable baby boy into her life in March. Lynn and her family are enjoying time with baby Elliot and traveled to Maine for a relaxing vacation this summer.

Susan (Okuley) Paz is enjoying life with two young boys. She and her family live in Indianapolis.

Other news: **Joy Malek Oldfield** has filed petitions to run in the November general election for a seat on the Akron Municipal Court. Joy is running for the seat held by Judge Thomas McCarty, who's running for re-election. Joy is a magistrate and judicial attorney who handles civil and criminal pending court proceedings for Summit County Common Pleas Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer.

Don't forget our 15-year reunion is this coming June 15-17 (as little groaning as possible, please). Visit [sites.jcu.edu/alumni](http://sites.jcu.edu/alumni) for more details.

*Brian*

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## Fall 2011

Not much news this time around. **Kelly (Cooke) Barry** and her husband, Jon, welcomed their second child into the world. Eve Melody Barry with big brother Sean. Eve Melody Barry was born Friday, April 8, weighing a healthy 10 lbs. 4 oz., and measuring 20.5 inches. Everyone is doing great, and big brother Sean (3) is excited about his little sister.

**Michelle (Cheraso) Qualls** married May 10, 2011 in Key West to Curtis Qualls, and they live in Broadview Heights, Ohio, with their two dogs, Jovi and Gino. Michelle has been with Fox Sports Ohio for five years as a senior account

Pittsburgh City Center Downtown. "My wife and I recently had a second child, and Pittsburgh was calling. It's much more comfortable and affordable to live here than San Diego."

Please take a moment when you can to send me your most recent news. Every time someone sends me a note, they mention how much they enjoy hearing about their fellow classmates. See you next time!

*Brian*

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## Fall 2007

**Sandy Lucas** wrote me a brief note: "I've been an attorney at Schneider, Smeltz, Ranney & LaFond, P.L.L. in Cleveland since 2000, practicing in the areas of estate planning and trust and estate administration. I became a partner at the firm in January 2007. Recently, I joined the Board of Directors of the Catholic Charities Corporation."

**Agnes** and **Bill Previts** had triplets- identical boys and a girl- who were born in Feb.

**Beth Weist** dropped me a note as well: "I got married this July and I currently live in Columbus. I work in Springfield, Ohio as a Campus Coordinator of a Catholic School. My married name is Beth Allman. (Maiden name: Weist). We plan on visiting **Shannon (O'Malley) Corrigan '97** this summer in Ireland, where she lives."

**Aryn Micaletti** pointed out a correction that needs to be made from the last column: Aryn is a real-time captioner with **VITAC Corporation** in Southpointe (which is located in Canonsburg, PA), instead of real-time captioner with Southpointe.

As you can tell, these past few months have been slow for news. Please pass along any updates, and I will be sure to include them in the next column. Thanks!

*Brian*

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## Summer 2007

**Shannon (O'Malley) Corrigan** wrote me from an island off the West coast of Ireland. She's been living in Ireland for seven years now and moved from Dublin to Achill Island where her husband, Declan, about three years ago. She has packed in her job in social work and psychotherapy and is now a small business owner running a post office on the island. Shannon and Declan have also become new parents. Shannon gave birth to a baby girl, Amelia, in April.

**Susan (Okuley) Paz** sent me an update about herself and a few other '97 grads: Susan and her husband are living in Indianapolis for the summer with their new baby boy, Alex, born in February.

**Erika Bauer**, Ph.D., has been selected for the prestigious Smithsonian's National Zoo curatorial resident program in animal care. Erika will spend the next two years in Washington, D.C., working and conducting research at the National Zoo.

**Monica Dragoman**, MD, finished her residency training in Dallas in ob/gyn and is now living in New York City completing a family planning fellowship at Columbia University.

**Meghan Sweeney**, Ph.D., and her life partner, Nicolas Laudadio, are assistant professors of English at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. They're currently enjoying a great road trip of the Midwest and East coast for the summer.

**Karen Thompson-Shaheen** is now working as a consultant at the Cobalt Group, a community development/strategic planning firm in Cleveland. She loves the change of her new position.

**Nikki (Nicholas) Custy**, her husband, and son Sean welcomed new baby Patrick to the family in March. Even with their two kids, Nikki and her husband still find time to play gigs with their Irish band, Pitch the Peat.

**Lynn Rutledge** graduated with a master's in occupational therapy from The Ohio State University in 2006. She is currently an occupational therapist with the Heinzerling Foundation, a non profit organization for children and adults with severe/profound MR/DD. Lynn and her new dog, Buster, are living in Columbus.

**Aryn Micaletti** lives in Seven Fields, PA, and is a real-time captioner with Southpointe.

**Janelle Riley** is a wealth management-RA with KeyBank in Cleveland and has three kids: Warren (9), Serena (6), and Jenine (6).

**Nicole (Radu) Wilkens** is living in Raleigh, NC, and has two children: Jordan Alyssa (3), and Jacob Thomas (8 mos.)

**Alexander B. Clarke** lives in Bath, OH, and is president of Brechbuhler Mack in Canton. Alexander and his wife, Kelly, have two children, Anna (3) and Grace (1).

**Joseph and Amy (Campbell) Szyperski** live in Toledo and have three children: Sam (6), Eleanor (3), and Theodore (2 mos.).

Heather (Slesinger) O'Donnell '96 is living in Concord Township, OH. She and her husband, John, have two children: Lucille, and Abigail, both 2 years old.

**Steven G. Voinovich** is in commercial real estate with CB Richard Ellis. Steve and his wife, Gina '98, welcomed the birth of their first child, Steven George Voinovich Jr., on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2006. Steve is also getting inducted into the John Carroll Athletic Hall of Fame in September 2007.

**Elaine (Cirino) Perdion** sent me a correction from the last column I wrote: her daughter, Ella is one years old.

**Sheri Kilarsky** sent me a note: "I am currently living in Westlake, OH, with my fiancé Rick Terens. We are getting married on August 16, 2008. We just moved back from a nine-month hiatus in Guam. Rick

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## Winter 2004

Hello once again to everyone from the Class of 1997. I apologize for the long delay between updates, so let's get right to the news ... Michael "Miguel" Davis no doubt has his hands full right now. He's working in the Department of Homeland Security as a principal legal adviser.

I picked up a lot of news from Eric Embacher ... He's busy with a freelance writing career and is living in Cuyahoga Falls. When he's not writing, he has been singing and playing the guitar at local coffee shops. Check out his recently published pre-teen biography about Will Smith on amazon.com.

Lynn Rutledge is pursuing a second degree in computer science at The Ohio State University. She would like to use her studies to develop adaptive technology for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Meghan Sweeney received her Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo in the spring of 2003 and is teaching as an assistant professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Karen Thompson was promoted to director of corporate and foundation relations at Case Western School of Medicine in Cleveland.

Monica Dragoman is now a second year at the OB/GYN residency program at UT Southwestern in Dallas. She has already delivered hundreds of babies.

Nikki (Nicolas) Custy is enjoying life with her husband, Pat, and is working as a technical writer at First Energy in Akron. They're part of an 8-piece Irish band called "Brace Yourself Bridget" that plays all over Ohio.

Erika Bauer is continuing her doctoral studies in behavioral psychology at the University of Michigan. This summer, she traveled to a sanctuary in Zambia to study chimpanzees.

Susan Okuley is having fun living in San Diego and just got married this past summer in La Jolla. She and her husband both do research at biotech companies.

Kara Barauskas recently moved back to the Pittsburgh area, and his planning her upcoming wedding!

John Shea has entered the seminary to become a Jesuit. He's based in the Detroit area. At this moment, he's taking part in a silent retreat.

Annmariie Tirpak is now working for the Cleveland Opera planning all of their special events and fundraisers. She is having a wonderful time and meeting very exciting people like Anton Coppola, the uncle of Nicholas Cage.

When you have a chance, drop me a line and let me know how things are going, where you're living and working, etc. Take care!

*Brian*