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# Finding success an exploration

ONE FUN PIECE of PBN’s 40 Under Forty program is asking the honorees a series of questions, the answers to which you see with each of their portraits in this special section. We can’t run all the answers – some are just too long for the pages available – but reading them all yields an interesting view into the commonalities and diversity of our winners.

One question – “What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?” – yields fun answers. From Kara Butler’s “Listen!” to Steven Boyajian’s “Keep building boats” to Katherine Messier’s “Use all of your vacation time,” it is clear some honorees know many of life’s best parts are not found in an office setting, but from taking that road less traveled and engaging people along the way.

But in a business publication the question, “Did you select your profession or did it select you?” may have the most resonance. So many of the answers, both those

printed and those not, made clear that finding a career came from taking a journey. Yes, many people knew what they wanted to be as children. But finding a calling for most required experiencing life, trying things and understanding what you really want and who you really are. That is a powerful message, counter to the pressure being put on young people today to focus on a career early on. Life is not a sprint, but a marathon. Run it well.

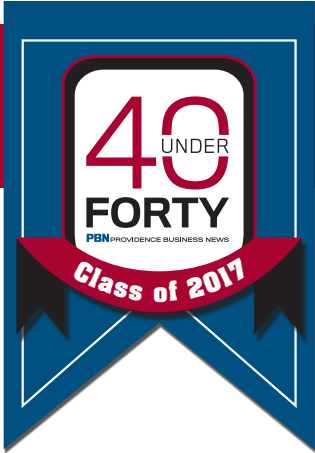
Back this year as presenting sponsor of the 40 Under Forty program is Marsh & McLennan Agency. The two sponsor partners are Cox Business and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island. The program, including the big celebration held July 20 at the Aldrich Mansion on Warwick Neck, would not be possible without their support.



Mark S. Murphy  
Editor

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### Providence office Marsh & McLennan Agency

congratulates the 2017 40 Under Forty nominees and award winners! Marsh & McLennan Agency is proud to support Rhode Island’s rising stars! Your hard work, dedication, and drive is a force to be reckoned with. Keep up the good work!



**Cox Business** is proud to partner with Providence Business News and continue our sponsorship of the 40 Under Forty Awards. It gives us great pleasure to honor such accomplished individuals in the Rhode Island business community, and support their business voice, data, video and security needs. Congratulations to all the 2017 honorees.



For nearly a quarter of a century, **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** has focused on making sure everyone in our state has access to high-quality, affordable health care. Today, from the new mom worried about scheduling a checkup to the small-business owner looking to insure her whole staff, Neighborhood is here.



## RICHARD BACCARI II, 39

PRESIDENT – CHURCHILL & BANKS COMPANIES LLC

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

Some of my earliest memories are of walking through the forest with my father looking at land that he was about to develop. I remember thinking how cool it was to come back months later and see people building an entire subdivision or a shopping center.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

The harder you work, the luckier you get. And treat others how you would like to be treated.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is today.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

My favorite Rhode Island escape is to the Ocean House in Watch Hill.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

My favorite Rhode Island food is anything my mother cooks. ■

**THE PROP:** Richard Baccari II hopes he can share his development business – including architectural plans – with his sons, as his father did with him.



## MICHAEL BAER, 36

SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – R.I. INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

During a vacation in Iceland, I had the opportunity to visit a geothermal power plant and was awestruck. This experience helped me rethink my career path and now I support infrastructure finance initiatives in the public sector.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

I live for morning runs on the weekend along Blackstone Boulevard with my family. Halfway through, we like to head down to the Narragansett Boat Club to catch our breath and let our son watch the boats row past.

### Where would you rather live – Providence or Little Compton?

Providence. There are events every weekend that are family friendly. My wife and I love the food scene in Providence, and even though we have only been here for two years, we have barely scratched the surface with trying all the great restaurants in the city. ■

**THE PROP:** Michael Baer “lives” for his morning runs on Providence’s East Side, although it is unclear if his puggle, Percy, accompanies him.



# MOVERS. SHAKERS. FRIARS.

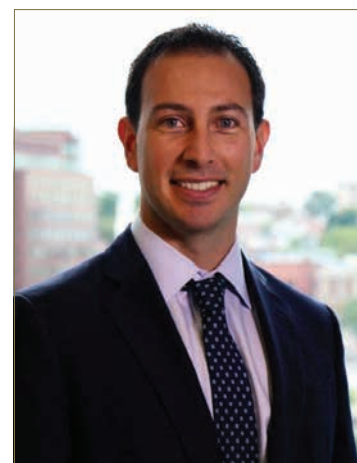
Providence College congratulates



**Dee DeQuattro '12G**  
Operation Stand Down RI



**Liz Manchester '02 & '17G**  
Providence College



**Zlatomir Popov '11G**  
International Game Technology, PLC

for being named to *Providence Business News*' 2017 list of “40 under 40.”

## PROVIDENCE COLLEGE



## Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Celebrates

# Shalini Singh

And her distinction as a

## 2017 “40 Under Forty” Honoree!

As a manager on Neighborhood’s Analysis team, Shalini is deeply connected to the strategies and initiatives that support our 200,000 members.

Her daily work helps us fulfill our mission to connect all Rhode Islanders with high-quality, affordable health care.

*Congratulations, Shalini – and thank you!*

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## BRIANNAN BINTZ, 36

DIRECTOR OF ENCAPSULATION RESEARCH –  
SEMMA THERAPEUTICS

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

I don't think I would change much. I'd still like to be working on cutting-edge research – furthering medicine and hopefully changing people's lives.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

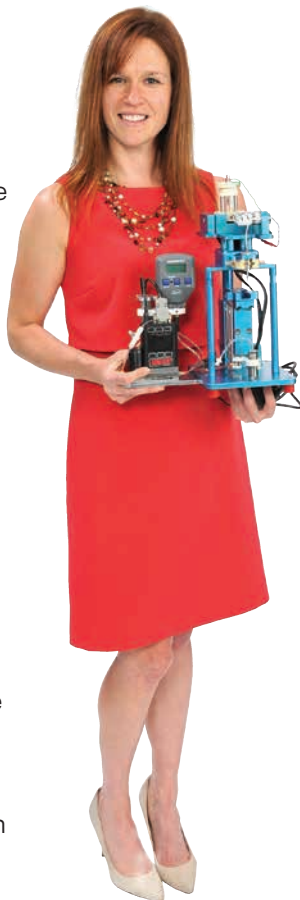
When I had the opportunity to start this role as director, I was torn between being a scientist or a manager. Chris [Thanos, vice president of delivery] said you don't have to choose, but you should do what you are good at and sometimes that is not always what you like the most. I haven't looked back.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Don't stop questioning. ... Learning is the answer, and there is always something else to learn in this industry and in life.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Hands down, road cycling. I started riding in 2008 in Rhode Island and haven't stopped since. ■



**THE PROP:** Briannan Bintz's work at Semma Therapeutics is designed to allow people to better control diabetes through microencapsulation devices.

## JONATHAN BITTNER, 30

CO-FOUNDER/CEO – SPLITWISE

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

My favorite escape in Rhode Island was a Walrus and Carpenter/Bottles/New Rivers Farm Dinner on Ninigret Pond a few years ago. My wife and I were lucky enough to get off the lottery waitlist this year so we can go again.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Del's Lemonade, from a cart in Kennedy Plaza or at East Matunuck State Beach.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

These days, I mostly enjoy reading Twitter. I was a late adopter of Twitter, but I've found lists of experts to follow on specific topics that have taught me a lot.

### Where would you rather live – Providence or Little Compton?

Providence. I'm an extreme extrovert and prefer living in cities, especially a creative and livable city with amazing food and people. ■



**THE PROP:** Jonathan Bittner likes his Emoji beach ball, but his reading list is less lighthearted, including "Imprudent King," by Geoffrey Parker, and "Barbarians at the Gate," by Bryan Burrough and John Helyar.

## Congratulations, Greg Calderiso!

We applaud our friend and colleague, **Greg Calderiso**, who earned a spot in **PBN's 40 Under Forty** class of 2017, and the 39 other inspiring individuals for the passion they bring to their work and our business community.



## Congratulations to

Attorney Sally P. McDonald



For her selection to  
*Providence Business News*

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this year's honorees.*

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## Proudly Congratulates Amy Grant

on being named one of Providence Business News'

40 Under Forty honorees!



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of our own 40 Under Forty: Peter Rinaudo.*



Thanks to the *Providence Business News* for recognizing Peter's commitment for taking such personal accountability for our clients' success.

**PETER A. RINAUDO**  
Senior Vice President, Senior Relationship Manager



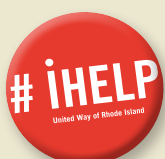
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## United Way of Rhode Island salutes Diana Perdomo upon being named a 40 Under Forty award recipient.

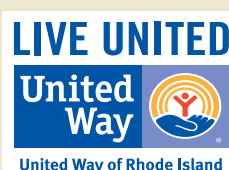


*"I help because I believe  
in community. We all  
want to live happy and  
healthy lives and a true  
community is comprised  
of members who help  
each other achieve  
common interests and  
goals."*

— Diana Perdomo,  
Director of Grants and  
Strategic Initiatives



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## CHAD R. BJORKLUND, 36

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PROPERTY & CASUALTY – HILB GROUP OF NEW ENGLAND

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

My best friend's uncle, Rick Padula, was in the insurance industry. I set up a lunch to learn more about what he did and how he achieved success. As it turned out, lunch was really an interview and ultimately an offer to join Gencorp Insurance Group. At the same time, my now wife, Mel, was living in Rhode Island and had a great job. The stars aligned, and here I am 12 years later with the same firm (now Hilb), married to Mel with three wonderful children.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

There is no substitute for hard work.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Chowder and clam cakes from Aunt Carrie's in Point Judith. We have a long-standing family tradition of spending Mother's Day there, no matter how cold or rainy. ■



**THE PROP:** A family man, Chad R. Bjorklund always finds time for his children: Parker, 6; Bryce, 3; and Maddie, 2.

## STEVEN BOYAJIAN, 38

COUNSEL – ROBINSON+COLE LLP

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

Both. My father, John, is a lawyer in Providence, so becoming a lawyer sometimes seemed preordained. By law school though, I wanted to do it because the practice of law is challenging and meaningful.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Since I was little, I was told to "carry a message to Garcia," which is a quote from a short essay, "A Message to Garcia," written by Elbert Hubbard in 1899. It is shorthand for the moral of the story – that things are only accomplished through initiative and tenacity.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Keep building boats. Law school will still be there in a few years.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

Barrington. Providence and Little Compton are terrific, but I'm on the Barrington Town Council, so there's only one way to answer this. ■

**THE PROP:** Steven Boyajian's service to the community is exceeded only by his commitment to his family, including children, Max, left, and Harper.





## LAURA BOZZI, 36

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS – SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

The decisions we make now on addressing issues [such as] climate change will fundamentally affect what 2037 looks like. I hope that we're on the right path in 20 years, and that what I'm doing then helps us move forward toward a livable and just world.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Working at a small fisheries organization on Cape Cod, I learned that big policy impact can happen in local places if led by a strategic, trend-setting organization. After that, I changed my plans from a career in Washington, D.C., to working at the regional level.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Spinach pies from Caserta's, strip pizza from LaSalle Bakery, clam cakes from Aunt Carrie's, and local veggies from my organization's farm, City Farm, at the Armory or Lippitt Park Farmers Markets in Providence.

**THE PROP:** Laura Bozzi holds A Sand County Almanac, which reminds her there is a moral responsibility – not just a social one – to protect the environment.



## KARA BUTLER, 38

DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – HEALTHCENTRIC ADVISORS

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I'd say a bit of both. Early on I knew I wanted to work in health care and in a leadership role, but I never imagined I'd end up in human resources.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Listen! I still struggle with this daily.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Coming from Pittsburgh (go Steelers!), a trip to the beach was a vacation, not a regular weekend occurrence. I think I was 12 or 13 the first time I saw the ocean. I love having access to Rhode Island beaches.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

If I'm pressed to pick, it has to be a donut cake from Allie's Donuts.

**THE PROP:** The outdoors plays a big role in Kara Butler's life, from sports with her children, from left, Sadie, Holden and Shephard, to outings at Rhode Island's beaches.



IGT proudly congratulates its very own  
**Zlatomir Popov!**

PBN's Class of 2017 - 40 Under Forty

Congratulations to all 2017 Honorees!





Robinson+Cole congratulates our colleague Steve Boyajian for being recognized as one of *Providence Business News'* 40 under Forty.

Steve's legal, civic, and charitable work, including service on the Barrington Town Council, the Board of Day One, and the Providence Foundation, exemplifies Robinson+Cole's commitment to making a difference—both for our clients and for our communities.

Congratulations to Steve and all of the other honorees.

**Robinson+Cole**

Contact: Patricia J. Igoe | 401.709.3325 | pigoe@rc.com  
Robinson & Cole LLP

## GREGORY CALDERISO, 37

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS—AMICA MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

My profession chose me. I can still remember my parents bringing home a computer and it igniting a spark in me.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

You don't know it all. Also, it's time to go get an adult haircut.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

It's easily Little Compton, it's amazing how just a weekend there can feel like a vacation.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

Given my last answer, this was such a tough question. But at this point in my life I have to say Providence. There is so much to do and it's such a great city to explore and enjoy. Talk to me in a few more years and I know for a fact this one will be changing to Little Compton. ■



**THE PROP:** Greg Calderiso enjoys time with his 3-year-old rescue, hound-mix Tal.

## Congratulations to Peter A. Jacavone III

on his distinction as a "40 under 40" honoree



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Senior Vice President  
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Peter's impact to Starkweather was immediate from the moment he joined the S&S team. Clearly a bright light and thought leader to Starkweather and the Construction Industry. Peter has expanded our value proposition to the construction industry.



## DEE DEQUATTRO, 29

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS - OPERATION STAND DOWN RI

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

I hope that we will have been able to take the Boots on the Ground for Heroes Memorial on the road and that it would have visited most of the 50 states.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

My 22-year-old self would probably not take my own advice.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

My favorite Rhode Island food hands down is clam cakes and chowdah, and my favorite place is definitely Jim's Dock.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

Facebook. I appreciate how it helps me stay in touch with friends, family and business associates.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

Providence. Like most Rhode Islanders, for me anything more than a 15-minute drive requires packing a lunch. ■



**THE PROP:** In 2016 Dee DeQuattro formed the Boots on the Ground for Heroes Memorial to remember U.S. service members killed in the "war on terror."



## CHRISTY B. DURANT, 39

PARTNER – QUINLAN & DURANT

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Do something that made me happy. That if I believe in myself and show confidence in my ability, others will believe in me too. Finally, that I don't have to be the best, I just have to be better than I was yesterday. I try to follow this advice every day as best I can.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

My favorite Rhode Island escape is having my toes in the sand at any of our gorgeous beaches with a great book to read.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

"Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End," by Atul Gawande. "You may not control life's circumstances, but getting to be the author of your life means getting to control what you do with them." ■



**THE PROP:** Christy B. Durant's office décor includes law books and a framed fortune cookie message she received before attending law school that reads, "You would make a good lawyer."

## DEREK FARIAS, 35

VICE PRESIDENT – BARBARA SOKOLOFF ASSOCIATES

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

I hope to still be working in the community-development field, helping transform neighborhoods project by project.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

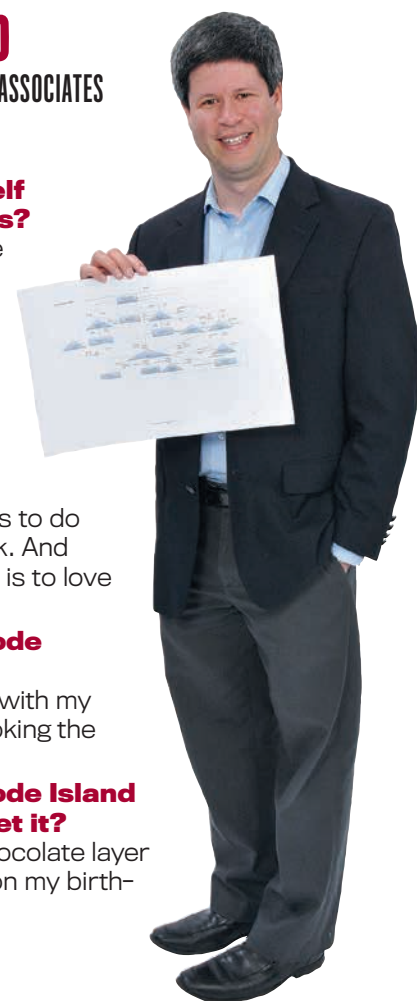
"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do." Steve Jobs

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

I love going to Colt State Park with my family to have a picnic overlooking the bay.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

My favorite food is Gregg's chocolate layer cake. I get a slice every year on my birthday. ■



**THE PROP:** Derek Farias came back to community development after graduate school because he wanted to use his financial training (and income flow charts) to transform neighborhoods.



# NEW ENGLAND

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## The Hilb Group of New England Congratulates Chad Bjorklund

ON HIS SELECTION AS ONE OF THE CLASS OF 2017  
**40 UNDER FORTY HONOREES**

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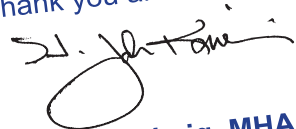
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## Congratulations, Kara!

On behalf of all associates, we are very proud of all of your achievements.

We are excited to have one of our esteemed colleagues receive a **2017 40 Under 40 award**. Kara's leadership has guided our organization's immense growth through strategic planning, staff development, and contract procurement and oversight.

Thank you and best wishes,



**H. John Keimig, MHA, FACHE**  
President & CEO

**Kara H. Butler, MBA, MHSA**  
Director, Administrative Services



## JOSEPH A. FARSIDE JR., 38

PARTNER – LOCKE LORD LLP

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

Both. I selected the law, based on an interest in environmental law that developed during my graduate studies at Rutgers and expanded at Roger Williams University School of Law. My other practice areas – antitrust and consumer finance litigation – selected me, which is a credit to the mentoring I received from the great people who I am fortunate to have worked with over the years.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

That the law is a "what have you done for me lately" industry. It is a good reminder that every day requires new dedication and energy toward client service in order to avoid the kind of complacency that will result in poor quality, which law clients can easily recognize.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Saltwater fishing for big striped bass. ■



**THE PROP:** Working for Locke Lord offers Joseph A. Farside Jr. the chance to work on matters with international reach in a small-city setting.

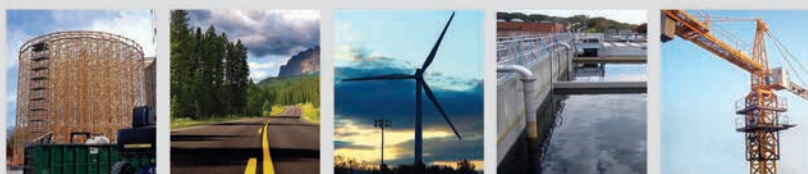


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## KACEY FETCHO-PHILLIPS, 36

SENIOR MANAGER – AMGEN RHODE ISLAND

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Stay true to yourself, and enjoy the journey by not just focusing on the destination. Understand what your true-life priorities are and hold to those first. I've made decisions to decline "good" opportunities because they didn't align with what I really wanted to do (either long or short term). With priorities set, difficult decisions become much simpler to decide.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Del's Lemonade. They do one thing and do it exceptionally well, so I appreciate their operational execution consistency as I drink the cool, not-too-tart, not-too-sweet treat. It's also nice memories with my three kids for a treat after a morning of hot, summer soccer games.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

I enjoy LinkedIn for the useful business content. ■



**THE PROP:** Kacey Fetcho-Phillips holds up a vial, a tool of her trade in the pharmaceutical-manufacturing industry.



## DIOSCARIS GARCIA, 34

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER – BI MEDICAL LLC

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

My professional strategy over the last four years has been to develop infrastructure that would attract and retain the immense talent coming out of our universities. In a couple of decades, I'd love to see institutions [such as] BioSci Labs flourishing, with novel and disruptive ideas, all developed here.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

I'm a New England guy through and through, and my passion for traditional New England cuisine is a significant part of my life. I adore coffee milk and an Olneyville System wiener, but for an absolute favorite, I must go with a bowl of New England clam chowder with a side of clam cakes from Iggy's.

### Where would you rather live – Providence or Little Compton?

As much as I love the city life, I'm a country soul at heart. Little Compton. ■



**THE PROP:** A series of purposeful conversations about academic interests and career paths led Dioscaris Garcia to BI Medical, and the deep-cleaning applicator technology he is holding.

## DR. ELIZABETH GOLDBERG, 34

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE – BROWN UNIVERSITY

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I've wanted to be a doctor for as long as I can remember. I've always loved giving advice, being able to help people in a moment of need, and the infinite amount of learning and relearning that you need to do as a physician.

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

My major professional goal is to make the emergency department a more welcoming place for older adults. Hopefully, in the process I will improve the quality of care that is delivered to every patient.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

I'm an avid urban gardener. It's a great family activity that I share with my husband and two kids. There are many resources in Rhode Island for people wanting to create their own little plot of land in the city. ■



**THE PROP:** Dr. Elizabeth Goldberg, with her trusty stethoscope in tow, will soon welcome her third child.



### Creating value for local businesses

We're delighted that Jay Heimgartner was named one of Providence Business News' 40 Under Forty honorees.

Whether he's helping local businesses find the right health coverage for their employees or serving on the board of Mentor Rhode Island, Jay is dedicated to supporting the needs of our community.

Congratulations, Jay!

### Jay Heimgartner

Managing Director, Employer Segment Sales

*It takes a team*



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Kristen M. Whittle, Partner

Congratulations to our partner and friend,  
**Kristen M. Whittle**  
and to all 2017  
**40 Under Forty**  
honorees.

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## AMY GRANT, 37

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR – BRYANT UNIVERSITY  
EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I think we chose each other. I fell in love with Bryant as a student and now I feel just as honored to be an employee.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Be your own advocate. I heard a speaker at Bryant's Women's Summit say she had been passed over several times for a promotion she felt she deserved. When she asked her boss why, he explained that he didn't know she wanted it.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Crystal Lake Golf Club in Burrillville. My husband and I were married there, so it will always be very special to me. I love to visit and sit by the water. It's simply beautiful.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Buffalo fries at Doherty's Irish Pub in Pawtucket. Delicious. ■



**THE PROP:** Amy Grant fell in love with Bryant University as a student and working there now is a labor of love as well.

## MAKING AN IMPACT

*RWU and RWU Law congratulate their distinguished alumni*



**Dee DeQuattro '09**  
Director of Development,  
Operation Stand Down RI



**Joseph Farside '06L**  
Partner, Locke Lord LLP



**Carlos Neves '06**  
Project Manager,  
Gilbane Building Company



**Sally McDonald '09L**  
Associate, Pannone Lopes  
Devereaux & O'Gara LLP

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## JAY HEIMGARTNER, 39

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYER SEGMENT SALES –  
BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF RHODE ISLAND

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

It's always good to have a plan but don't count on it working out exactly as expected.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

If you ever find yourself taking the train to Boston, do yourself a favor and order a Sunrise with no Sun or an Urban Cowboy before you leave at Café la France there.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

Tom Robbins is one of my favorite authors and I've always remembered the following quote: "Have you ever thought about calling in well? Get the boss on the line and say, 'Listen, I've been sick ever since I started working here, but today, I'm well and I won't be in anymore.'"

### Where would you rather live- Providence or Little Compton?

Little Compton. ■

**THE PROP:** Jay Heimgartner and his wife are "huge fans" of the Tottenham Hotspur, whose jersey he is wearing. They also love to play, coach and watch soccer.





## HEATHER HUDSON, 33

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

Both. I have always been interested in public service and so right after college, I chose to do AmeriCorps. After earning my master's degree, I chose to work on [former] President Barack Obama's campaign. But gradually, and perhaps lately, I have found that the profession is choosing me.

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

In 20 years I see a few different paths. I could wind up running a state agency, I could transition into the private/philanthropy sector, and I would also consider running for office. Either way, in 20 years I hope to continue to lead and serve within my community.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Working for Gov. [Gina M.] Raimondo over the past five years has provided me the best indirect career advice.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Be patient, be humble and listen. ■

**THE PROP:** Heather Hudson loves to rock climb in Maine's Acadia National Park.



Jessie T. Kanter, CPA  
Director  
BlumShapiro

"Jessie's practical approach and focus on quality has positioned her as a leader in BlumShapiro's accounting and assurance group. This, along with her passion for assisting various civic and educational organizations, has helped spearhead BlumShapiro's giving initiatives in our local communities."

Gregory Cabral,  
RI Office Managing Partner

## Congratulations, Jessie Kanter!

We applaud Jessie Kanter, one of the leaders of our firm's Quality Control Group, on earning a spot in PBN's 40 Under 40 Class of 2017!

Jessie's commitment, along with her attention to our clients and outstanding dedication to the community, make her an invaluable asset to our firm.

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## PETER JACAVONE III, 32

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER –  
STARKWEATHER & SHEPLEY INSURANCE BROKERAGE INC.

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

My main goal is to continue Starkweather & Shepley's primary objective, which is to focus on our two greatest assets: our employees and our clientele. The next 20 years will bring unprecedented challenges within our industry, and I plan to rise to the occasion.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

"Be a leader, not a follower," from my grandfather.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

You don't have to be the smartest person in the room to be the most effective.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

I utilize LinkedIn on a regular basis. It allows me to not only promote Starkweather & Shepley but to build professional networks within my industry.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

Providence. ■

**THE PROP:** Golf is Peter Jacavone III's favorite Rhode Island escape, and what he wants to be pictured with reflects that.



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including our own,

**Kacey Fetcho-Phillips**

Senior Manager, Supply Chain

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Congratulations to the 2017 Providence Business News 40 Under Forty award recipients, including our Partner, Joseph Farside. We are proud of Joe's outstanding professional achievements and community involvement, and we are honored to call him a friend and colleague.

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## JESSIE KANTER, 39

DIRECTOR – BLUMSHAPIRO

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

It selected me. I developed an interest in business late in high school and fell in love with accounting after taking a course my senior year. Both of my professors in college were former national-firm professionals and they guided me into public accounting.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

There is no such thing as work-life balance. It is all about work-life integration. I have found happiness in both by integrating my life and my career.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

It is probably a tie between LinkedIn and Facebook. I enjoy sharing information on the professional side through LinkedIn. Facebook has been great for staying in touch with family and friends and sharing my children's milestones with them.



**THE PROP:** By integrating work and life, Jessie Kanter finds no trouble making time for her sons, Aaron, 8, and Nathan, 10.

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## ELEANOR LANGHAM, 26

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – COGGESHALL FARM

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

When I graduated college with a degree in history and anthropology, I really didn't know what I was going to do with my degree and was prepared to take any job that came my way. It was by chance that I found an advertisement on Craigslist for a museum-assistant position shortly after graduation. One of my mentors offered me a second job as an archaeologist when I asked him for a reference. Museums were a perfect fit for my background and skills, and the rest is history.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

There is no contest. My favorite Rhode Island food is Del's Lemonade. Since Coggeshall Farm Museum is right next to Colt State Park, on a summer day I can travel a minute down the road to grab one after work. ■



**THE PROP:** Eleanor Langham's books, including "Identity of a Museum Experience" and the first cookbook published in the U.S., represent her passion for history, museums and archaeology.



## CARRIE MAJEWSKI, 29

FOUNDER/CEO – WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP NEXUS

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

I envision myself running onto a large stage, microphone in hand, looking out at a sea of thousands of women who are committed to flipping the leadership paradigm as it exists today – to fight for the fact that leadership is a choice and not about title and hierarchy. I take center stage ready to deliver my speech ... the one about how we as women have a responsibility to do better, to be better, to be staunch advocates of one another, to nourish each other's talents. And I am humbled and incredibly excited that my taking center stage in front of a crowd of this magnitude symbolizes the success of my organization.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

Providence. What would I do without Wayland Square or the Eastside Marketplace?! ■



**THE PROP:** Carrie Majewski is not afraid of dreaming big, holding a framed quote that she lives by: "What if I fall? Oh, my darling, what if you fly?"

## ELIZABETH MANCHESTER, 37

FOUNDER/ATTORNEY – MANCHESTER LAW LLC/PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

Following my instincts and being open-minded led me down the path I am on. Being open to new opportunities internally at nonprofits, [such as] Providence College, and starting my own practice have allowed me to pursue what I love to do.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

"The devil is in the details" and "careers are built brick by brick."

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Providence College is my alma mater and a place where I have the privilege of working. It is a truly beautiful escape within the city. Go Friars!

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

At this time of year, I would have to choose Little Compton. My husband and I love going to Briggs Beach; there is nothing like summer in Rhode Island. ■



**THE PROP:** Working both for herself and for Providence College (the torch logo), Elizabeth Manchester has to manage time well (with more than an hourglass).

# Congratulations

to all the professionals who earned *Providence Business News'* 40 under Forty designation, and especially our Executive Director and Founder, Katherine Messier.

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## KUNAL MANKODIYA, 35

DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR – WEARABLE BIOSENSING LAB/UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

### What's the best career advice you've received?

You need to walk the path by your-self. Others can only shed light on it. Therefore, it is you who must take all the responsibilities and must gain strength to face challenges and find ways to overcome them.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Life is an experiment. What you need to do is to keep trying different protocols. Observe what works and what does not. At the end, the experience will become your best teacher. By the way, it is important to take thoughtful risks in life.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

"The Art of Dying," by S. N. Goenka. "If one speaks or acts with a pure mind, happiness follows like an inseparable shadow."

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

South Kingstown! ■



**THE PROP:** Kunal Mankodiya shows off his smart textiles, an in-home medical device for people suffering from movement conditions to promote and measure activity.

## SALLY P. MCDONALD, 38

ASSOCIATE – PANNONE LOPES DEVEREAUX & O'GARA LLC

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I think it selected me. I was voted most likely to be a lawyer in my middle school yearbook. I was so disappointed because almost anything else seemed cooler.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

You don't have to be a certain personality type to be a good lawyer. I have been told more than once that I seem too nice to be a litigator.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

The chicken Parmesan at L'Antica Trattoria at St. Bart's Club in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Providence.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

"Clementine," the biography of Winston Churchill's wife. I love so many of Churchill's quotes. A favorite: "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." ■



**THE PROP:** Sally P. McDonald seems to have a placid personality, but the law, represented by the state civil and appellate procedure manual in her hands, can bring out another side.

## KATHERINE MESSIER, 35

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – MOBILE BEACON

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

I hope to be managing Mobile Beacon's parent. I'd like to still oversee Mobile Beacon, but be more focused on developing new philanthropic programs to support our mission.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Use all of your vacation time – the work will be there when you get back. I rarely "took my foot off the gas," so although I accomplished a lot in my 20s, I also missed out on some of the other important things, too.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Block Island – it's a must on my summer bucket list.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

Facebook. As a working mom with two kids under the age of 5, it helps me stay connected to a broader range of friends and family than I can see regularly. ■



**THE PROP:** Katherine Messier is connected through her work as a provider of mobile internet access and through friends and family, including her two children, Dylan and Leah, pictured on the mobile device.

## CARLOS C. NEVES, 33

PROJECT MANAGER – GILBANE BUILDING CO.

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

The profession definitely chose me. If I had gone to any other college, I would have gone for a biology-based major. At Roger Williams University, I applied to the School of Engineering for computer science, but when I went to accepted-students day, I heard about this awesome major that was construction management. It was definitely the right choice. I loved my schooling, and I now work for a great company.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Work is never more important than your home life.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Does coffee milk count? I'll take that wherever I can get it. For an actual food, Fellini's on Wickenden Street in Providence. The best pizza I have ever had. ■



**THE PROP:** Carlos C. Neves, a comic book lover, displays his collection of Marvel movies and comics.



## ERIN PENDER, 36

DIRECTOR OF PHYSICIAN PRACTICES –  
LIFESPAN PHYSICIAN GROUP/NEWPORT HOSPITAL

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

In 20 years, professionally, I see myself as a CEO or chief operating officer of a multispecialty health care corporation. My passion is in operations and leadership, and I would be blessed to continue this journey in health care administration.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

When someone tells you that you can't do something, show them just how well you can.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Don't put too much pressure on yourself and take the good with the bad. It's all about balance. ■



**THE PROP:** Erin Pender and her family – husband, Seneca, son, Jamyn and daughter, London – enjoy moments together, as well as sharing them on Facebook.

## DIANA PERDOMO, 33

DIRECTOR OF GRANTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES –  
UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I knew early on that I wanted to contribute to making the world a better place. Working in philanthropy and the nonprofit sector was clearly the path for me.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

You can't control the actions of others, but you can control your own actions, so be intentional and be strategic.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

I love taking my dog, Rosie, to the beaches of Little Compton and Tiverton.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

At the end of the summer, picking up Walker's Farm Stand tomatoes, Young's Family Farm's corn and Sakonnet Lobster Co. lobsters and making a feast is by far my favorite meal.

### Where would you rather live – Providence or Little Compton?

A studio in Providence and a bungalow in Little Compton would be perfect! ■



**THE PROP:** Since Diana Perdomo and her husband just bought a home in Tiverton, the couple and Rosie the rescue dog can escape the urban landscape to a bucolic environment.

## ZLATOMIR POPOV, 32

MANAGER, FINANCE – INTERNATIONAL GAME  
TECHNOLOGY PLC

### What's the best career advice you've received?

From my mom: "It's for a reason that people are given two ears and one mouth, so try to listen more than you speak."

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Remember to sometimes sit on the balcony and look at the big picture.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Until I moved to the U.S. I had never heard of chowder. This is now my preferred appetizer, and I enjoy it all year at my favorite restaurant, Lobster Pot in Bristol.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

I don't read books very often and I don't remember the last one I read. However, I am compiling a big list for retirement. ■



**THE PROP:** Zlatomir Popov's favorite escapes are playing tennis and soccer, sports that have taught him self-leadership and teamwork.

## PERRY RASO, 38

OWNER – MATUNUCK OYSTER FARM, MATUNUCK OYSTER BAR,  
MATUNUCK VEGETABLE FARM

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I didn't harvest and grow shellfish because it was something I loved to do. I started harvesting shellfish at age 12 because it was the best way I knew how to make money. But at some point I grew to love it. I purchased the restaurant because it was the only property with the commercial docks I needed and then found myself in the restaurant business. It's safe to say my profession chose me.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

"What Cheer, Netop! A key into the language of America," by Roger Williams. "When Roger Williams and a few friends settled at the place he called 'Providence,' the Indians there felt as securely planted as the trees of the forest."

### Where would you rather live – Providence or Little Compton?

I'd rather live in East Matunuck. ■



**THE PROP:** Perry Raso stands with a cage that his business grows oysters in.



## MIKE REPPUCCI, 38

FOUNDER/OWNER – SONS OF LIBERTY BEER & SPIRITS CO.

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

A mix of both. I always knew I wanted to start my own business, but it was certainly a journey to starting a distillery and making whiskey.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Actually, a lot of the career advice I get is terrible. When I tell people what I want to do, most think I am crazy.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Don't listen to conventional wisdom. It is usually very conventional but seldom wise.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

Wood-fired pizza, and I have been crushing Pasquale's Pizzeria Napoletana. Get the antipasto and a Margherita. You will thank me after.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

South County all day. ■



**THE PROP:** Mike Reppucci hopes that in 20 years he is still making "the good stuff" at Sons of Liberty Beer & Spirits.

## PETER A. RINAUDO, 37

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR RELATIONSHIP MANAGER – WEBSTER BANK

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

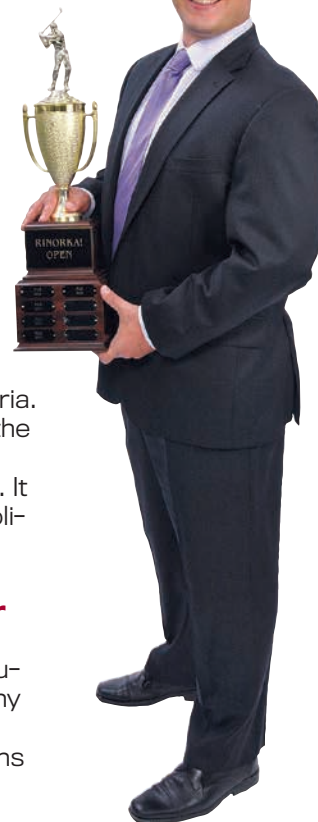
Stay patient. You are constantly climbing a mountain that you will never get to the top of. Real success only is achieved when looking back on the path that you took filled with steps of hard, honest labor performed with the highest levels of integrity.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

I really enjoy the pizza at Pasquale's Pizzeria. He is a true craftsman in every sense of the word: fresh ingredients, state-of-the-art equipment and the love of serving people. It is the closest you can get to a true Neapolitan pizza in Italy.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing." "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," by Doris Kerns Goodwin. ■



**THE PROP:** Peter A. Rinaudo shows off his family's gold trophy, a relic of their annual Rinorka! Open.

## NICK SCAPPATICCI, 39

FOUNDER/CEO – TELLART

### What's the best career advice you've received?

The best way to beat the competition is to stop trying to beat the competition. Lasting success comes not from battling competitors but from leading and untapping new market spaces.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Always surround yourself with advisers and peers who will empower your ambitions and enable new ways of thinking.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Taking advantage of some of Rhode Island's bike paths. Most are old rail lines, threading through Rhode Island, and you are in some of the most scenic parts of the state.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island food and where do you get it?

I have had countless essential Rhode Island moments in more places than I can name. In moments [such as] these, I can be served anything and it will instantly be a favorite Rhode Island food. ■



**THE PROP:** Nick Scappaticci holds the first company sign, made by local artist Bill Benson, that hung on Steeple Street.

## SHALINI SINGH, 30

MANAGER OF FINANCIAL DATA AND ANALYSIS – NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH PLAN OF RHODE ISLAND

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I definitely selected my profession. As a college student, I always knew I wanted to be in the health care realm. [Today] I get to have a unique role in bridging the gap between physicians and patients.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

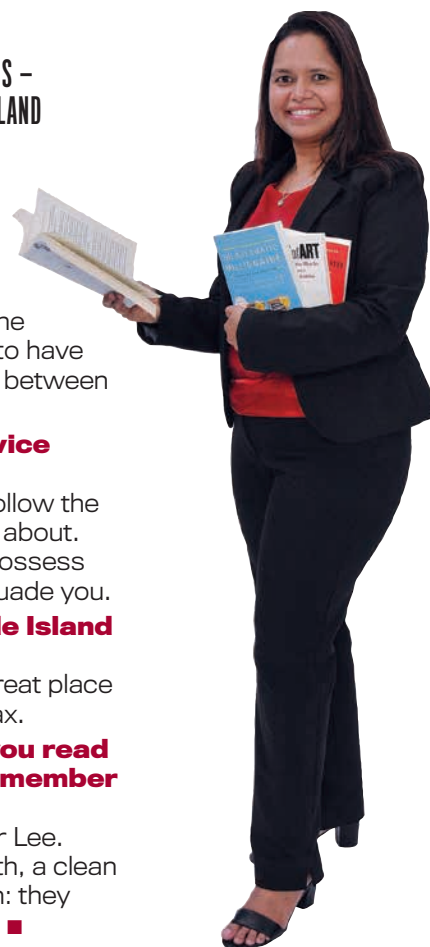
Be persistent, be resilient and follow the dreams you're most passionate about. Focus on the unique skills you possess and do not let your failures dissuade you.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Point Judith Lighthouse. It is a great place to view the ocean, read and relax.

### What's the last book that you read and what quote can you remember from it?

"Go Set a Watchman," by Harper Lee. "Prejudice, a dirty word, and faith, a clean one, have something in common: they both begin where reason ends." ■



**THE PROP:** Shalini Singh loves to read and travel throughout the U.S. and India.



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- DIANA PERDOMO, United Way of Rhode Island
- PETER RINAUDO, Webster Bank
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- BRETT SMILEY, Office of Gov. Gina M. Raimondo

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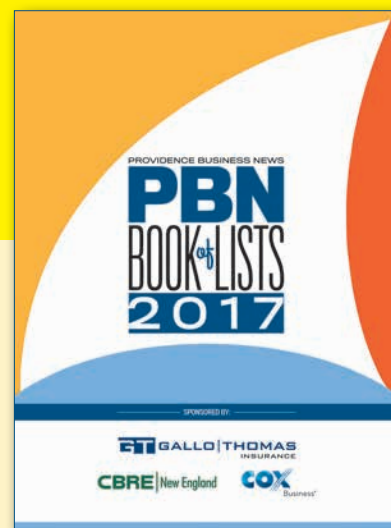
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## BRETT SMILEY, 38

CHIEF OF STAFF – OFFICE OF GOV. GINA M. RAIMONDO

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

Politics and government chose me. I was pursuing my MBA and working as an accountant when a friend ran for City Council. I went to work for him and it was all downhill from there.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

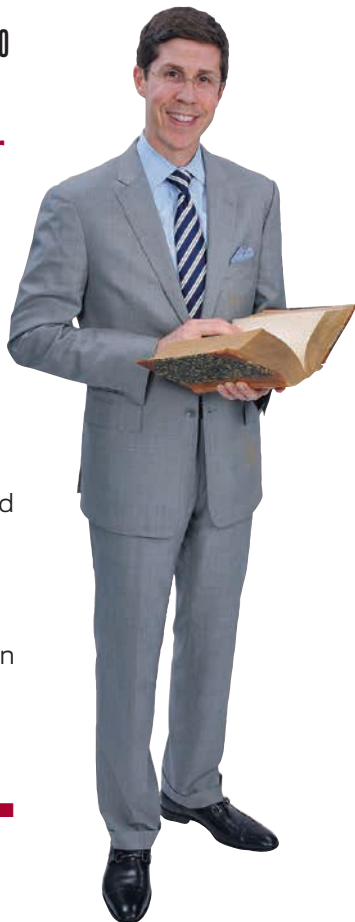
We are so lucky to have world-class arts and culture in our small state. My husband and I are regulars at Trinity Rep, Festival Ballet and the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

### Which social media platform do you use the most, and why?

Twitter. Some of the best coverage of the Statehouse and City Hall happens on Twitter.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

Little Compton is nice to visit, but I couldn't live anywhere but Providence. ■



**THE PROP:** Holding an 1888 book of Rhode Island laws, Brett Smiley is proud to live and work in the Ocean State.

## JEFFREY P. SPRATT, 39

PRINCIPAL AND PARTNER – PEREGRINE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC

### What's the best career advice you've received?

My parents always stressed to me that you should finish what you start. If you commit to something, you need to follow through.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

You don't need to know what you want to do with your life just yet. Work hard, ask questions and don't be afraid to take on new jobs and responsibilities. Even though it may not feel like it, everything you do will help (or hurt) your ability to advance. Where you belong will start to become clear.

### Where would you rather live - Providence or Little Compton?

If I was answering as my 22-year-old self, I would have to say Providence, with so many great places to eat, drink and socialize. If I had the option today, I would love to live in Little Compton with its beautiful homes, landscape and views of the water. ■



**THE PROP:** Jeffrey P. Spratt, dedicated at work and at home, holds his company's logo and a family photo with his wife, Sharon, and daughters, Abby, 4, and Ellie, 1.

## ANDY TRENCH, 37

FOUNDER/CEO – XACTSENSE

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

I have worked for myself or independently for the last 15 years, so I have chosen my path in general. Now I'm developing drone technology, and it's not hard to walk into work every day.

### Where do you see yourself professionally in 20 years?

The world is changing at an exponential rate, and this means opportunity to innovate in every direction. I would like to think I will have brought multiple ideas to fruition by then, and could get back to playing music and making art.

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Don't sell your Toyota pickup.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Wednesday date night! Food in Providence somewhere (partial to Kyla Coburn-touched establishments of course), live blue-grass at Nickanee's, then funk at The Parlor. ■



**THE PROP:** Andy Trench has used his RISD training with his partner to do commercial interior design/build. But for a decade he has been piloting and then building remote-piloted aircraft – drones.

## KRISTEN M. WHITTLE, 32

PARTNER – BARTON GILMAN LLP

### Did you select your profession or did it select you?

It selected me. I knew by elementary school that I would become a lawyer someday. For a class project in fifth grade, I wrote a business plan to open my own law firm – complete with a poster-board sign.

### What's the best career advice you've received?

Be kind to everyone you meet. It's the right thing to do, of course, but, as my dad always said: "You meet everyone in life twice, and people will be more likely to help you later if you were kind to them the first time."

### What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

I would tell myself to keep studying, but understand that the most important lessons about being a lawyer will come long after school has ended.

### What is your favorite Rhode Island escape or hobby?

Boating on Narragansett Bay. ■



**THE PROP:** Equipped with her backpack and hiking boots, Kristen M. Whittle hopes to someday hike all 48 New Hampshire mountains – she has done half with her twin daughters.



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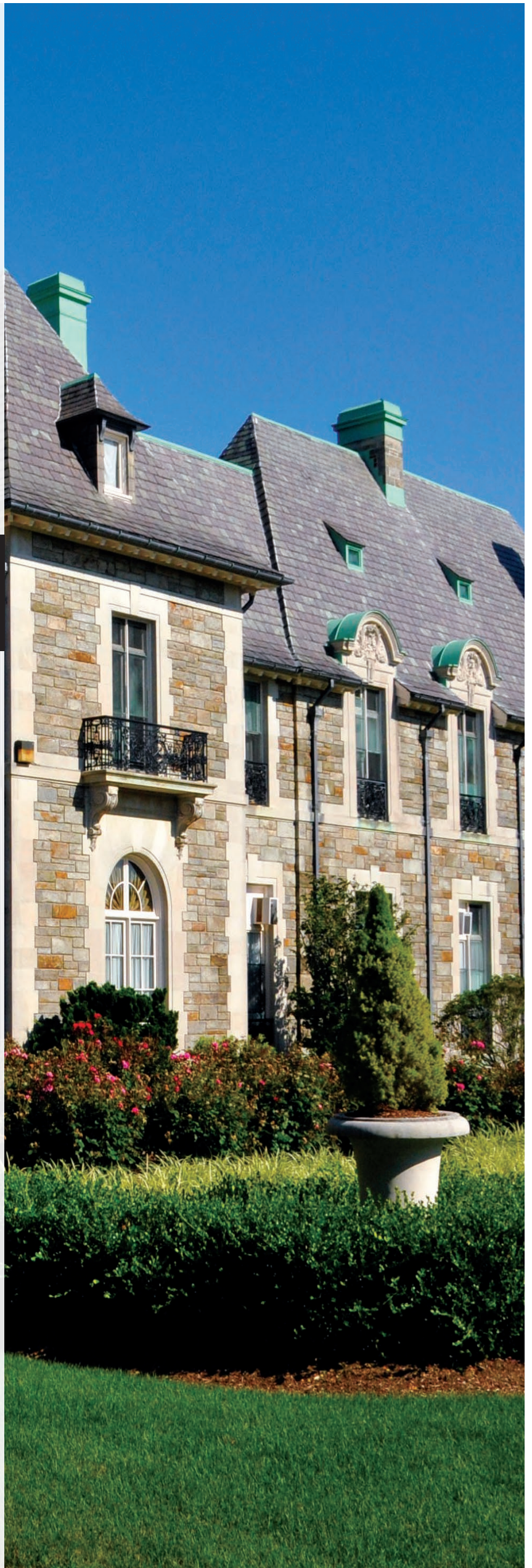
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