PITTSBURGH’S 50 FINEST
Thursday, August 15, 2013
The Grand Ballroom of the Omni William Penn Hotel
7 p.m. - 11 p.m. • Honorees will be presented at 8 p.m.
Hosted by former 50 Finest Amber Nicotra of WTAE Channel 4 Action News and Frank Murgia of Talent Network, Inc.

Pittsburgh’s 50 Finest are 50 of the city’s most accomplished men and women. These outstanding professionals are selected on the basis of their activity in the community and success in their careers. Each of the 50 Finest is committed to raising as much money as possible for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. They are counting on friends, family, co-workers, and the Pittsburgh community to help them exceed their minimum goal of $2,500. The 2012 class raised $337,000 for the foundation, so the bar has been set high for the Class of 2013!

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is the world’s leader in the search for a cure for cystic fibrosis. For more than two decades, the foundation has been recognized as one of the most effective and efficient organizations of its kind. Approximately 90 cents of every dollar of foundation revenue goes to support vital CF research, medical, and education programs.

Donations can be made directly to the individual honorees at wpa.cff.org/50finest or by contacting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

RACHEL KINNEY
Rachel Kinney, a recent graduate of Peters Township High School, is an ambassador for the CF Foundation. For the last several years, Rachel has used her daily battle with CF to help each class of 50 Finest honorees better understand cystic fibrosis and how it affects those living with the disease and their families. Rachel plans to attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall, and we can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Western Pennsylvania Chapter
810 River Ave., Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412.321.4422 / www.cff.org

Tickets
w: wpa.cff.org/50finest
p: 412.321.4422
$75 in advance ($40 tax deductible)

Ticket price includes pasta and carving stations, salad, bread, and dessert, courtesy of Bella Sera Catering and the Omni William Penn Hotel. Four complimentary beverages are also included with each ticket, courtesy of Coca-Cola, Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale Co., and Clique Vodka.

PITTSGURGH’S 50 FINEST
2013 STEERING COMMITTEE
• Jim Mendelson
• Daniel Gilman
• George Bellios, D.M.D.
• Justin Bray
• Daniel Burda
• Jason Capps
• Colleen Coll
• Daniella Cuomo
• Justin Davis
• Brian Henciak
• Angela Kinney
• Tony Lee
• Jacqueline Massacci
• Lauren Norris
• Jeff Sassano
• Ashley Thompson
• Mark Burnett
• Angela Criscella
• Mark Miller

SPECIAL THANKS TO
RANGE RESOURCES
WHIRL publishing.

Coca-Cola
Cioppino
Bella Sera
RAW HUGS
Pittsburgh Weddings
Lamar

FRANK B. FUHRER WHOLESALE CO.
Dr. Clinique Brundidge is a senior research nuclear materials scientist and engineer at Bechtel Bettis Laboratory, Inc., where she is responsible for the technical development of materials in nuclear reactors for the U.S. Navy. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, where she was also the first African-American to letter four years in swimming. Additionally, she was honored as a Distinguished Student Leader in 2009 by the university for her exemplary service and positive impact in the community. She has continued to positively impact the community as a post-graduate and professional by spending the majority of her time and energy delivering motivational speeches and developing programs that encourage high school students to engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In addition, she is active in numerous organizations as treasurer of the National Society of Black Engineers; vice president of membership for Toastmasters International; and serves on the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Sports League, The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society, Women in Nuclear, and the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society.

If you’ve gone to a fundraising event in Pittsburgh recently, and had the time of your life, chances are you’ve been introduced to the magic of Samuel Clyde Badger! Sam is the mastermind behind Pittsburgh Opera’s lavish galas that are routinely hailed among the best in every year-end list. As special events manager, in addition to the grand Maecenas Gala, held on the Benedum Center stage, he is responsible for its annual kick-off to the season Diamond Horseshoe Ball, its New Year’s Eve extravaganza, and a plethora of smaller fundraising events throughout the year. Sam served as co-chair of the 2013 Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force benefit, serves on the committee for Carnegie Library’s Late Night @ the Library soirees, and is a board member of the Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh. He was chosen as one of WHIRL Magazine’s “13 Under 30,” featured in the March 2013 issue. This New Castle native has fully ensconced himself in Pittsburgh life, whether he’s trying out the latest new restaurant, exploring one of the many cultural institutions, or walking the catwalk for a good cause, such as the Lupus Foundation of PA. Wherever he goes, he’s the life of the party...and he’ll charm the pants off of clients, co-workers, and the media alike! “If you’re bored with Pittsburgh, it’s your own fault!” he says. Sam’s own words are fitting. If you’re not having fun at a Samuel Badger event, it’s your own fault!

Shannon Reardon’s beautiful smile can be spotted from a mile away. She believes that everyone deserves to smile, which is why she is a dental assistant at the premier dental office in Western Pennsylvania, Fox Chapel Advanced Dental Care. The ambitious 29-year-old is also a lab manager at Allegheny CAD/CAM. Shannon has a huge heart and is the textbook definition of an animal lover. If she gets near a pet store, she will keep bringing home puppies and kittens! She wants to keep them all, but has settled for just one — her dog, Foxy. Shannon loves to read and go to the beach. Her favorite place so far? Puerto Vallarta! Shannon is supported by Fox Chapel Advanced Dental Care, Cappy’s Cafe, Titan HVAC, and friends and family.
DREW MAJERICK

Drew Majerick is a real estate consultant and vice president of the Oil and Gas Division at Beynon and Company. He has worked very extensively within the oil and gas industry, helping out-of-state oil and gas companies relocate into Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio for the Marcellus and Utica Shale activity. Drew currently serves as the president of the University of Delaware Alumni Chapter for Western Pennsylvania, where he played Division 1 soccer and graduated with a degree in political science and international relations. He is affiliated with many organizations, including BNI Network Group, Washington County Chamber of Commerce, PA Realtor Association, the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association, and RAMP.

ASHLEY DOUGHERTY

Depending on your plans, Ashley Dougherty can make or break your day each weekend morning on WTAE-TV. The altruistic meteorologist loves her job but definitely prefers the days she can report sunny news! She is on the board for Driving for a Cure, and takes part in WTAE-TV’s annual Project Bundle-Up. Ashley is a huge animal lover and just recently started volunteering at Hello Bully. Not surprisingly, the animal lover has two pets of her own — her cat, Bella and her dog, Bubba. She also competed in this year’s Dancing with the Celebrities of Pittsburgh, which benefited the Kiwanis Group and Free Health Care for Catholic Charities, and Watchful Shepherd’s Dancing for a Cause, where she took first prize! Ashley spends free time hitting golf balls at local courses, working out, attending Pittsburgh sporting events, and spending time with friends and family.

MICHELLE JO SEMINS, M.D.

Dr. Michelle Jo Semins is a urologic surgeon and assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center at Mercy Hospital. As an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, she was a spirited Wolverine. After leaving Ann Arbor, Michelle returned to Pittsburgh for medical school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. From there, she was accepted into a demanding surgical residency at Johns Hopkins. She spent six rigorous years training in a field dominated by men. Her hard work paid off and she had her choice of jobs when she was finished, so Dr. Semins decided to come home in 2011. In addition to her work and mentoring responsibilities, she is an active member of the American Urological Association, Northeastern Section of the American Urological Association, Pittsburgh Urological Association, Society of Endourology, and Society of Women in Urology. She is supported by Andy Hawk, Roni and Howard Semins, Eve Semins Hagerty, Dorothy and Sam Greenfield, William Semins and Hattie Fletcher, the Harris family, Janet Niethamer, Sarah and Ben Davies, Stephen and Dana Jackman, and other friends, family, and generous colleagues.

DANIEL J. ZIGERELLI

To his students in the Central Valley School District, Daniel J. Zigerelli is a popular Language Arts teacher. Having already earned his master’s degree in school counseling, Daniel decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and is working toward earning his principal’s certificate. “Zig,” as his friends call him, is also a musician that sings and plays rhythm guitar for the well-known Pittsburgh rock group, the Delaneys. You may have heard them play before a Steelers, Pirates, or Pens game, at one of Pittsburgh’s clubs, or even on the radio. The band’s music has been featured on 105.9 The X and 102.5 WDVE, and is currently working with producer Rick Witkowski on its fourth studio album due later this year. He is supported by Altar Bar, Mario’s South Side Saloon, and Latitude 40. You can find the Delaneys on iTunes or at facebook.com/thedelaneys.
A southern gentleman through and through, Brandon Hudson of WPXI-TV exudes the quiet confidence of a man raised with the traditions, manners, and friendliness of a family rooted in the south. Born and raised in Montgomery, Ala., he already has his football tickets for the September 2nd game, where the Pitt Panthers will face his alma mater, the Florida State Seminoles. Brandon got his first real taste of life in Pittsburgh 24 hours after moving here, when he attended the 2011 AFC Championship game. It was then that he realized he was in for quite a ride as a member of the WPXI-TV team. He’s met interesting people, been chased by a pit bull, and even gotten stuck in quicksand. When not in pursuit of a good story, Brandon plays basketball, mentors future journalists, and works with the St. Catherine of Sweden Youth Group.

Raising awareness and money to help battle cystic fibrosis is especially important to Jennifer Chambers. She’s lost two cousins, Sherri and Debbie, at the ages of 11 and 19 to the disease. Currently, her cousin Renee is battling cystic fibrosis. She has undergone a double lung transplant surgery, yet always has a smile on her face. Jenny is a popular guidance counselor for grades 8-12 in the Keystone Oaks School District. Her big heart and positive attitude made her a natural choice for becoming the Caring Team coordinator at the high school. The Caring Team raises money for the Highmark Caring Place, which supports grieving children and their families. Her team has also raised money for breast cancer, melanoma, autism awareness, the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross.

Pastry Chef Meghann Walsh creates the most delicious and beautiful desserts in the city. She graduated from Pittsburgh’s International Culinary Academy, Le Cordon Bleu, before moving to Florida, where she worked for the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg for seven years. During her time there, Meghann perfected the art of pulled sugar (sugar creations that are formed by boiling a sugar syrup and then stretching the sugar by hand), and participated in a three-day course with famed Pastry Chef Ewald Notter. After winning a series of dessert competitions, Meghann relocated back to the Pittsburgh area where she caught the eye of Executive Chef Greg Alauzen. She soon began her career with Cioppino Restaurant & Cigar Bar and Osteria Restaurants. Her passion for cooking is literally skin deep — she even has a pastry chef pin-up tattooed on her arm! When Meghann is not in the kitchen, she enjoys spending time with her American pit bull, China, and remains dedicated to dispelling the false information out there and changing the perception of these incredible dogs.

Dr. Craig Oser loves living in Pittsburgh even more than he thought he would. The Philadelphia native came here three years ago and opened his own practice in the South Hills — Dr. Craig Oser Plastic Surgery. He is enjoying all that our city has to offer on a professional and social level. He can be seen rollerblading or cycling around town when he isn’t exercising at the gym. Dr. Oser enjoys meeting new people and trying out the new restaurants in the city. He takes his own good fortune seriously, and in turn, does pro bono work for trauma and cancer victims.
CLAY SHAFFER

A frequent attendee of social and charity functions, Clay Shaffer enjoys being on the social scene, helping a wide array of causes, and dressing to the nines while doing so. It's a good thing he loves to see and be seen, because his style always gets him noticed! Clay is a 2011 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with dual degrees in finance and psychology. Having worked in the restaurant industry through his college years, Clay has always been interested in Pittsburgh's culinary scene. He got his start in the field with big Burrito Restaurant Group in 2008 at Casbah Mediterranean Kitchen and Wine Bar. After four years, he was moved into a management role at Mad Mex. He loves to spend his free time with family and friends, traveling, throwing elaborate dinner parties and, of course, supporting CFF! Clay would like to send a special thanks to big Burrito Restaurant Group, Spin Bartini, and the Sewickley Café for their continued support.

TAMI DAVIS

"Anytime you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don’t, then you are wasting your time on Earth." Tami Davis tries to model her life around this great Roberto Clemente quote. The project manager for Dell Marketing L.P. actively supports the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Light of Light Mission, Toys for Tots, National Kidney Foundation Fun Walk, Epilepsy Family Run/Walk, and Pirates Charities. A sports enthusiast, Tami is a coach for the Miracle League of the South Hills and also loves to cheer on the Riverhounds, Penguins, and Pirates. Tami is affiliated with the Pittsburgh Social Exchange, Empire Who’s Who for Executive and Professional Women, and Manchester Who’s Who for Executives and Professionals.

JODI MELVIN

An altruistic teacher in the Midland Borough School District, Jodi Melvin strongly believes in the importance of philanthropy. She has spent the last 12 years working with her students and leading by example. Jodi has assisted with the girls basketball team, sponsored the school’s pep club, and spent hours after school helping students in need. She financially supported students that couldn’t otherwise attend field trips, and brought in backpacks, school supplies, clothes, and shoes for kids that needed them — all while working toward her Principal’s Certification. When she isn’t at school, she loves to read and spend time outdoors with her three children, Gavin, Jakob, and Mollee. Jodi is supported by CF Sales and Manufacturing, Midland Education Association, Jergel’s Rhythm Grille, and friends and family.

PAUL BRENDEL

Paul Brendel graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience. He then went on to work as a research assistant at Pitt’s Learning Research & Development Center, where he had worked part-time as an undergrad. His research investigated the neural substrates of reading. His co-authored paper, “Reading Faces: Investigating the Use of a Novel Face-Based Orthography in Acquired Alexia,” is awaiting publication. In the spring of 2013, Paul enrolled at Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health to earn a master’s degree in epidemiology. This summer, Paul started working at the Allegheny County Health Department on a to-be-determined project to help an underprivileged community in Allegheny County. When he is not working, Paul enjoys running, painting, and traveling. He also volunteers at other Cystic Fibrosis Foundation events, such as Jam on Walnut, Passion for Wine, and the Brewer’s Ball.
ALAN WILSON

Alan Wilson earned a dual degree in molecular biology and Spanish in the spring of 2012 from the University of Pittsburgh. Shortly after graduation, Alan joined the ChemImage Corporation team, working with its biomedical department. Because his work focuses on developing innovative biomedical solutions for cancer and other diseases, he would like to travel to Central and South America this fall to volunteer in medical clinics. In his free time, Alan enjoys volunteering at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Oakland and with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. As a scientist who understands the significance of curing a genetic disease, he is exceptionally dedicated to raising money for CF research.

JOHN MAGGIO

A proud member of Hokie nation, John Maggio graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2009 with his bachelor's degree in finance. He began his career working in a corporate trust department specializing in tender option bonds, but quickly advanced to a position with Merrill Lynch in 2011. The young go-getter loves to golf, play tennis, and ski with co-workers, friends, family, and the Pittsburgh Sports League. John is a member of Virginia Tech Alumni Association's Pittsburgh chapter and participates in the annual walk for the American Heart Association.

EDITH DEL CARMEN GUEVARA

Although she was born in Arlington, Va., Edith del Carmen Guevara recognizes great value in other cultures and holds this close to her heart, as her parents were born in Mexico and Venezuela. Between her multi-cultural home and artist father, she couldn’t help but develop an eye and passion for art throughout the world. A cross country scholarship to California University of Pennsylvania brought her to the Pittsburgh area in 1997. She has always been an avid runner, and takes health and fitness very seriously. Edith even incorporated wellness into her work life when she began working for Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield as a client service manager in the National Sales department. The 33-year-old stunner enjoys running competitively in 5Ks, 10Ks, and half marathons; she also leads the Run Club for CrossFit Alloy. Edith volunteers for Highmark's Caring Place as well as other company-sponsored opportunities, including Project Bundle-Up, Junior Achievement, and Special Olympics.

JANET IRWIN

Growing up in Bethel Park, the youngest of three brothers and a sister, Janet Irwin developed a passion for being around people. She was involved in every sport, from the cheerleading squad to the boy's baseball team, and always thrived in the spotlight. After losing her father, she took on a passion she shared with him: writing. Janet graduated from WVU with a degree in journalism and immediately launched her career in broadcast news in Clarksburg, W.Va. After a year, she conquered her dream to come back home and work in the competitive Pittsburgh market. Within her three years at WTAE-TV, she climbed her way up from evening desk assistant to producer of the award-winning Channel 4 Action News This Morning. In that time, she also created and managed the WTAE-TV Newstars Charity Softball Team, which helped raise money for charities and nonprofits across Western Pennsylvania. Eventually, Janet decided to break out of the newsroom to take on a new endeavor in the exciting world of print sales. She joined the WHIRL Publishing family in December. Her new career allows her to meet the people whose ideas and drive help build the city she calls home.
LAUREN CERQUA

Ask anyone — Lauren Cerqua, MPT can help you achieve goals you never thought possible. As a physical therapist and manager of Outpatient Therapy Services at St. Clair Hospital, and a group fitness instructor at LA Fitness, she can’t help but encourage other people to strive for their best. Lauren’s big heart and commitment to helping others is why she volunteers for many different organizations, including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Girls on the Run, Habitat for Humanity, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She has led extremely successful ZUMBA fitness fundraisers to benefit each of these charities. With the support of the Cerqua family, the Pecorari family, and the Hip-Hop family, Lauren is truly making a difference in the Pittsburgh community.

RUSSELL YORK

Russ York is a senior lead strategist for an online marketing agency in the Pittsburgh area. The Keystone Oaks graduate received his bachelor’s degree in political science and communications from West Virginia University. With more than 10 years of experience in the advertising industry, he has helped several local businesses create Internet marketing programs, as well as mobile and social media campaigns. When he isn’t working, you can probably find him on the golf course or trying out one of Pittsburgh’s newest restaurants. Despite his busy schedule, Russ is still a laid-back Pittsburgh guy. He would rather spend the afternoon with his two kids, Abigael and Hannah, than be anywhere else. Russ is supported by the Buncher Company, Smoke Cigar Shop & Lounge, Jeff Sassano, friends, and family.

PATRICK FINEGAN

Patrick Finegan has been working in the commercial real estate development industry since graduating from West Virginia University in 2002. He spent the first part of his career working on the design and development of large scale, mixed-use projects across the country with Site Signatures, Inc., before joining PNC Realty Services. As part of the talented PNC Realty Services team, Patrick’s responsibility as a transaction manager in the Commercial Trust Real Estate Group offers him opportunities to continue his growth through all facets of the real estate industry. Born and raised in Western Pennsylvania, he shares the likes of many from the region: sports, music, outdoor activities, and most importantly, family and friends. Patrick likes to stay active in the community by volunteering with various organizations. He especially enjoys sharing his passion for real estate development by working on local community betterment projects. He is supported by friends and family.

ASHLEE O LIVO

Only 26 years old, Ashlee Olivo is definitely an up-and-comer to keep your eye on. After earning her degree in communications with a double minor in writing and history from Allegheny College, Ashlee joined KDKA-TV as an account executive. She has spent the last four years developing and managing advertising and marketing campaigns for local and regional businesses. She manages and develops marketing strategy, commercial production, promotions, and, overall, successfully helps her clients grow their business. In her spare time, Ashlee supports and volunteers for the Young Women’s Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation as director of special events. Most recently, she was instrumental in creating a successful promotion with the City of Pittsburgh and Panera Bread called the “Power of Pink Challenge,” a Pittsburgh versus Cleveland promotion to sell Pink Ribbon Bagels in the month of October. The promotion raised more than $60,000 for local breast cancer patients and their families. In addition, Ashlee is in her fifth year as the Junior Varsity head coach of the Peters Township Dance Team. This past February, the dance program took home first and second place at the National Dance Championship in Orlando, Fla. Ashlee devotes her time to role model and mentor these wonderful and talented young ladies.
While working on her business degree during her junior year of college at WVU, Marci Kerr accepted a prominent internship with CNBC. She lived in Manhattan for the summer and worked on Wall Street, as well as on numerous TV shows, including the TODAY show. Working on Wall Street is what catapulted her into her current career in finance. Marci is now an assistant vice president and portfolio manager for F.N.B. Wealth Management. To complement her professional experience, Marci is in the process of obtaining her Certified Financial Planner designation through Boston University. She was taught about the importance of giving at an early age by her father. Every Christmas Eve, her family visits with and gives presents to patients who are being cared for by a local nursing home. Ever since, Marci has been an active volunteer for a variety of local charities and enjoys giving back to the Pittsburgh community. She is supported by her amazing friends, family and colleagues, as well as F.N.B. Wealth Management and Denham & Co. Salon.

John Woodruff is a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine corps. He received his J.D. from Duquesne University in June. While there, he was the president of two organizations: the Black Law Student Association and the Military Law Association. He created the policy that helping the community through a worthy charity should be one of the driving forces of these organizations. This community-based idea lead to new fundraisers and record profits, and, therefore, the donations are helping the Western Pennsylvania area. John currently resides north of Pittsburgh, with his son, surrounded by a loving and supportive family, and is studying for the bar exam, awaiting his next military orders once completed.

She might not wear Sperry Top-Sider boat shoes or a red headscarf with nautical stripes, but ask anyone, Olivia Kennedy channels the style of Jackie O when she is on the water. You can find the always-polished brunette boating down one of the three rivers on any given Saturday with friends and family. Originally from Canada, Olivia now calls Fox Chapel home. A successful assistant vice president and financial consultant for First National Investment Services, Olivia loves the challenge of helping her clients reach their financial goals and objectives. She applies her hard work and dedication to all aspects of her life and is excited to transcend her passion into fundraising efforts for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

“Fashion passes, style remains.” Coco Chanel could easily have been describing John Gurman and the way he lives his life. Always impeccably dressed, John is an interior designer for Loom Exquisite Textiles. He loves his career, but he also loves keeping up with the latest trends. The designer grew up in Niagara Falls and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in interior design from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. John has had a hand in charitable events throughout the community. He was involved with the creation of the Persian tents for the Pittsburgh Opera’s spring gala, as well as the design of a cystic fibrosis event held in Bakery Square. John also does visuals for Louis Vuitton and freelance design for Alexander Henry Fabrics out of Burbank, Calif.
**Erin May**

Erin May is the marketing director of Goehring, Rutter & Boehm, where she is responsible for establishing the firm’s brand, maintaining its position in the industry, and creating the firm’s overall approach to marketing and branding. Since taking on the role, Erin’s position has expanded to include public relations and business development. During her time at Goehring, Rutter & Boehm, she has also maintained an active freelance graphic design business. In April 2011, she created and incorporated Evolutionare, LLC, a graphic design, marketing, and small event planning company. Erin even designed the 2013 logos for Pittsburgh’s 50 Finest and Twin Cities Finest! She is a member of the La Roche College Alumni Association Board, a founding member and director of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance Western Pennsylvania Chapter, and the president of the Professional Services Marketing Association. Her supporters include Goehring, Rutter & Boehm, David W. May General Contractor, family, and friends.

**James Protin**

James Protin is the oil and gas industry national practice leader for Chester Engineers, the largest African-American-owned consulting engineering firm in the country. James’ primary focus is Marcellus and Utica Shale exploration and production in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, but also includes shale plays in Michigan, North Dakota, Texas, and Louisiana. Born and raised in Charleroi, Jim is celebrating his 30th year in the engineering and construction industry in the Pittsburgh market. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Mon Valley Progress Council, the American Heart Association, and the Business Advisory Board of The Challenge Program. He is an associate member of the Marcellus Shale Coalition and is also affiliated with the Independent Oil & Gas Association of Pennsylvania. A charismatic leader, Jim enjoys golf, writing, and traveling. He is supported by Chester Engineers, Marcellus Shale Coalition, HomeWaters, Greenlee Partners, NOVA Chemicals, Creative Visions, Lee Supply, friends, and family.

**Ashlie Hardway**

She may have spent three years in Texas covering dangerous international issues, cartel crimes, and public corruption along the U.S.-Mexico border, but the Pittsburgh skyline is actually what gives Ashlie Hardway butterflies. The Penn Hills native and WTAE-TV reporter is happy to be back in her hometown. Ashlie can be seen weekdays on Channel 4 Action News at 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. When she isn’t covering the news or spending time with her little girl, Olivia Violet, the fashion-savvy reporter (She has more than 50 pairs of shoes!) can be found supporting local charities and artists throughout the area. Ashlie has a soft spot for UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and spends time there at least once a week.

**Brian Clinton**

Despite being diagnosed with testicular cancer at the age of 30, Brian Clinton hasn’t slowed down one bit. Given a clean bill of health one year after being treated, Brian came away from the experience with a newly focused and positive attitude. His work ethic is unparalleled and his commitment to the Pittsburgh community is unrivaled. A vice president and project manager at PNC Realty Services, Brian is responsible for the east coast design and development of PNC corporate real estate. In his free time, he enjoys meeting new people and trying new things. He also lends his support to a variety of different cancer-related charities.

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Despite being diagnosed with testicular cancer at the age of 30, Brian Clinton hasn’t slowed down one bit. Given a clean bill of health one year after being treated, Brian came away from the experience with a newly focused and positive attitude. His work ethic is unparalleled and his commitment to the Pittsburgh community is unrivaled. A vice president and project manager at PNC Realty Services, Brian is responsible for the east coast design and development of PNC corporate real estate. In his free time, he enjoys meeting new people and trying new things. He also lends his support to a variety of different cancer-related charities.
LOU SCHWARTZ
Three words come to mind when you think of Lou Schwartz. He is fun, caring, and generous. Lou embraces life by enjoying time with his family and friends. His hobbies include music, traveling, golfing, hunting, and, most importantly, making memories with his family and friends. Lou is an avid sports fan and attends almost every home WVU football game. He also supports the Pittsburgh teams by attending many games for the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates. To maintain such a busy and fulfilling lifestyle, Lou earns a successful living as an executive sales representative for Janssen the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. He has twice been named District Representative of the Year and, in 2010, he won the prestigious “President’s Trophy” award given to the top 10 percent of the sales force. Trained professionally as a nurse, Lou works with his customers at UPMC to provide quality products to patients. His motto is “patients come first, stay humble, and stay hungry!” Lou is quite charitable and supports many organizations, such as the American Heart Association, the ALS Association, the American Red Cross, and the United Way. When Lou isn’t working or supporting the community, he can be found hanging with his friends at his local pub, The Oakmont Tavern. Some of his supporters include Kristin Benz, The Oakmont Tavern, and Karen Watkins.

JENNIFER MAKOwSKI
Jennifer Makowski loves dancing, planning events, and working with people. When she was in college, the 24-year-old began working for the Pittsburgh, New York, and Miami-based Bonnie Walker Events as an assistant planner to the company event coordinator. Her degree from Seton Hill University and sunny personality led to an opportunity at PNC’s World Financial Headquarters, where she is currently the guest services administrator. Jennifer recently started graduate school at Point Park University where she is pursuing dual degrees in a master of arts in journalism and mass communication, as well as a master of business administration. When she isn’t in school or working, Jennifer volunteers with the Ambridge High School’s Dance Team and the HOPE Network’s physically disabled waterskiing program.

JOSHUA MILAN
Joshua Milan is the owner and operator of Milanscape, a design and building landscape construction company based in Greensburg, which specializes in custom stone projects in the South Pittsburgh area. Trained in design and construction at WCCC and Penn State, Josh enjoys working on each site — building natural stone patios, walks, walls, and waterfalls. It’s no surprise that his love of nature carries over to his hobbies as well. Josh likes to rock climb, kayak, fish, and is an amateur soccer player for the Westmoreland United FC. You may be surprised, but acting is Josh’s secret passion! He has been in 14 shows and his most recent roles include “Mr. Jim O’Connor,” in Tennessee Williams’ The Glass Menagerie at The Theater Factory and at Penn State New Kensington. His favorite role was “Gustav Aubin” in The Ladies’ Man, a French farce he performed in at the Applehill Playhouse. Josh would like to thank his parents, Bonnie and Buck, for their unconditional, loving support in all things.

JESSICA ZIEMSKI
A Steel City native, Jessica Ziemski is a huge Pittsburgh sports fan, who recently realized her dream of living in the heart of the city she loves when she relocated to a Downtown apartment. Jessica graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in criminal law and justice, and went on to attend law school at the University of Pittsburgh. As an attorney at Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampi, LLC, she practices commercial litigation and found a law firm culture that reflects the camaraderie that she loves about the Pittsburgh community. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, volunteering at Animal Friends, participating in the Pittsburgh Sports League, and running. Jessica is also passionate about giving back to the community. One of her most rewarding experiences has been promoting a love of reading at a young age by mentoring a third-grade student through Reading is FUNdamental. She is also an active member of the Allegheny County Bar Association — Women in Law Division.
Tony Rossi has always been proud to call Pittsburgh home. As vice president for CBRE, Tony has an opportunity to share the dynamic story of Pittsburgh and its many successes to capital market participants across the country. A Penn State graduate, he focused on accounting and real estate courses, which led to him beginning his career as an analyst and loan officer with a regional bank. As Pittsburgh emerged from the recession, Tony had the opportunity to work on a wide array of commercial real estate development deals. When he’s not trying to strike a deal, Tony enjoys spending time outdoors snowboarding or participating in endurance races. Last year, he completed his fourth Pittsburgh Marathon, as well as his first Olympic distance triathlon!

Jolina Giaramita

After graduating from Clarion University with a degree in communications, Jolina Giaramita put on an apron at her family’s Italian restaurant and has yet to take it off! During the last 13 years, she has managed to transform La Tavola Italiana Restaurant into a Pittsburgh favorite and expand the family business to open Carmela’s Kitchen. The restaurants are a great way for the family to share their Italian culture and traditions with the people of Pittsburgh. Jolina supports several local organizations, including Urban Impact. When she isn’t in the kitchen or volunteering in the community, you’ll find Jolina with her two little girls, Lilah and Bianca.

Kim Langhorst

Kim Langhorst is a human resources recruiter at Remote DBA Experts. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Penn State and her master’s degree from Duquesne. While at Penn State, Kim participated in the nationally recognized fundraiser, THON, which is a 46-hour dance marathon that raised $7.49 million during her senior year! Always in search of adventure, she loves skydiving, climbing waterfalls, and traveling. Kim also enjoys yoga, painting, cooking, and running. She even completed her first half-marathon last May! Her supporters include friends, family, and Remote DBA Experts.

Jesse Goodall

Jesse Goodall is the college unit director for Northwestern Mutual’s Downtown office, where he manages 25 interns while also running his own financial planning practice. He plays an active role in the community by working with his alma mater’s lacrosse team, Central Catholic High School, as the junior varsity head coach. Passionate about the work Family House does, Jesse is a founding member of its Young Business Leaders Committee. He also hosts an annual golf outing to benefit its Family Assistance Fund, the Michelle Goodall Charity Golf Outing, in honor of Jesse’s mother who lost her battle to cancer when he was 12 years old. Jesse has made it his mission to continue his mother’s belief in the importance of community service and he looks forward to increasing his involvement as part of this year’s 50 Finest. He is supported by Northwestern Mutual Pittsburgh, Sean and Gina Cassidy, and Douglas and Rhonda Goodall.
Ashton Kinney has always known exactly what he wanted to do when he grew up. Some kids say they want to be a doctor, a teacher, or an astronaut, but Ashton can remember telling his teachers that he wanted to grow up to work for the family business, S.P. Kinney Engineers — one of the world’s leading manufacturers of industrial automatic self-cleaning strainers and blast furnace equipment. When Ashton was a junior in high school he began to really work at the family company in a variety of capacities. After he graduated from Allegheny College in 2010, Ashton took on a management position in the company sales department. He hopes to work there as long as he can.

Melissa Cekus is an associate director of clinical operations for AbbVie. She has dedicated her career to clinical research and to doing her part in finding treatments and cures for diseases that plague our population. The blonde beauty is an avid runner and member of the Steel City Road Runners organization. She has a passion for art and culture, and enjoys attending gallery events, the symphony, and other art and music events. Don’t be surprised if you see her at a metal band concert! Having spent time in more than 20 countries, she tries to bring a little bit of that country back with her each time, be it a piece of art, a local tradition, or cuisine. As a Downtown dweller, having watched Pittsburgh grow and change over the last decade, she has made it her mission to help make it a city that appeals to young people, families, entrepreneurs, and businesses. Missie firmly believes that to have any influence on changing culture, you have to embrace, live, and advocate for that shift in beliefs.

Ryan H. James is the owner and founder of James Law, LLC, a general practice law firm located in McKeesport. Ryan represents clients in various criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings. Before founding James Law, Ryan worked as an attorney at a firm that dealt primarily with public-sector and personal-injury law, clerked for the Michigan Supreme Court, and served as a student attorney with the Washtenaw County Public Defender’s Office. This dedicated entrepreneur is also a mentor with the United Way’s “Be a 6th Grade Mentor” program, a volunteer attorney with the Neighborhood Legal Services Association, an arbitrator in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, and a member of the Allegheny County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.
ANGELA CASALE
Angela Casale grew up in the restaurant business. Her family owned and operated restaurants in Italy, where Angela was born, and then in Virginia, where they moved when she was 10 years old. Now 27, she is the director of sales and catering for DiBella’s Old Fashioned Submarines, which is a growing business with 36 locations based out of Rochester, N.Y. She loves what she does and takes immense pride in her work. With the support of DiBella’s, Angela has raised money for Make-A-Wish, Pittsburgh’s Children’s Hospital, and the University Hospital in Cleveland — among many other deserving organizations. When she is not traveling for business, you can find her enjoying sports, baking, or spending time with her friends and family. She is supported by DiBella’s Subs, friends and family, Samantha Morgan, and Nick Rine.

ELENA LAQUATRA
Elena LaQuatra has never let the fact that bacterial meningitis took 100 percent of her hearing at age 4 hold her back. Having spent years dancing, winning awards as a member of the Mt. Lebanon High School Dance Company, performing as a member of the Mt. Lebanon High School Percussion Ensemble, appearing on Greece’s Next Top Model, and as a pageant consultant on MTV’s “Made,” you’d never guess that she has a cochlear implant. She spent her teenage years competing in pageants, winning the prestigious title of Miss Pennsylvania’s Outstanding Teen in 2007 under the Miss America Scholarship Organization and then placing second runner-up at the national competition. Elena was also named Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA in 2010 under the Donald Trump-owned Miss Universe Organization. She serves as the emcee and red carpet host for many Pittsburgh events, a spokesmodel for various organizations and companies, owns a pageant consultant business, and works as an agency-signed model for major companies. One day she hopes to become the first deaf anchor on a national entertainment network, like E! News. She is supported by Dickie, McCamey, & Chilcote P.C., Charles and Laura Aftosmis, and Coast 2 Coast Communications’ CEO Frank Catroppa and Vice President Dennis Asvestas.

JOHN CORTESE
As the oldest of three kids in a close-knit Italian family, John Cortese has always tried to set a good example for his younger brothers and sisters. After deciding to attend college close to his hometown of Murrysville, John graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a degree in business. Right out of school, he was fortunate enough to land a sales position with a medical device company. The time and effort he put into his career initially paid off — he is now the vice president of sales for the company. He credits much of his personal and professional success to his good friend Mark Miller. A PIAA State place winner in wrestling, John has been an assistant wrestling coach at Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School for the last five years. At an early age, wrestling taught him to be independent and positive, and John hopes to teach the students he works with the same thing.
Sean Vojtecky is the finance director at Diehl Automotive Group, one of the premier auto dealers of new and used vehicles in Pittsburgh. He has a tattoo of a Scion on his arm because of his passion for the vehicles and in honor of the company he works for. Diehl Automotive Group is a major supporter of his fundraising efforts. On the side, he likes to work on installing custom car stereos. Not one to sit around, he is also a camera man for Raw Hogs Media and a DJ at Studio Raw.

Kimmy Johnson is the finance director at Diehl Automotive Group, one of the premier auto dealers of new and used vehicles in Pittsburgh. He has a tattoo of a Scion on his arm because of his passion for the vehicles and in honor of the company he works for. Diehl Automotive Group is a major supporter of his fundraising efforts. On the side, he likes to work on installing custom car stereos. Not one to sit around, he is also a camera man for Raw Hogs Media and a DJ at Studio Raw.

In the spring of 2006, Matthew Arch walked across the Penn State stage and became the first person in his family to graduate from college; but he didn’t stop there. Motivated to further his education, Matt is currently working on his master’s of social work at the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on Social Administration. The young go-getter is also working full-time as the program manager for the UPMC Center for Inclusion. He sits on the History Uncorked host committee, serves as the secretary for the Board of Directors at Addison Behavioral Care, and even ran the full Pittsburgh Marathon in May, raising money for the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Matt loves to promote health care initiatives — he feels strongly that it helps remind people of just how precious life is. He is supported by Bobbie Fox, Inc., Guarino Group Productions (entertainment and event services), and UP Modern Kitchen.

Born in Michigan and adopted by two little people, Richard and Carol Menart, Kimmy Johnson spent her childhood watching and imitating Julia Child in Ligonier. Inspired by her childhood idol, Kimmy went on to culinary school and graduated in 2003 from the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute with a degree in pastry arts. With the assistance of Dan Burda and Rohn Neugebauer, she will be opening the official Kimmy’s Cupcake Co. within the next year. Also a host for the popular media company Raw Hogs, Pittsburgh’s official “paparazzi,” Kimmy has been able to meet eclectic and interesting people throughout the city. She is a member of the Little People of America, Human Rights Campaign, American Heart Society, and Habitat for Humanity of Pittsburgh. For more information on Raw Hogs and her bakery, visit rawhogs.com and facebook.com/kimmymyscupcakecompany.
Wesley Lyons is in a profession that helps to inspire others. As an author and motivational speaker, Wes stresses the importance of personal and professional advancement to schools, businesses, and organizations. His work ethic was honed as a star football player and 2006 graduate of Woodland Hills High School, and was further refined as he continued to play as a West Virginia University Mountaineer. His ambition helped him graduate a semester early, which allowed him to be picked up by the New York Jets in the off-season and eventually sign with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He parlayed his experiences on and off the field into the book, "The Pursuit with Patience," which documents the opportunities and challenges that he faced at an early age.

Kristine Schnaufer has a very successful career and is incredibly passionate about giving back to her hometown. A marketing product manager for PNC, the Pittsburgh native has been involved with some of Pittsburgh’s most successful fundraisers, including PNC’s Treasury Management Annual Golf Outing for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for Bach Choir Pittsburgh. Kristine earned her undergraduate degree from Slippery Rock University and continued on to earn her MBA from Waynesburg University — one of her proudest accomplishments. She is a member of PNC’s Women Connect Group, PNC’s Women’s Mentoring Group Planning Committee, and PNC’s “PREP” group for emerging young professionals. With the support of friends, family, PNC, Perlé, and PA Brew Tours, Kristine is excited to make a difference in the lives of families who are touched by CF.