



4-2001

## Alumni Notes

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### Recommended Citation

Morris '02, James (2001) "Alumni Notes," *The Park Place Economist*: Vol. 9  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace/vol9/iss1/5>

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## Alumni Notes

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*By James Morris*

**Junaid Ahmed, '96**, works with the BBC World Service in London, UK as a news and current affairs producer. He got married in August 1999 and is currently doing a part time Master's in International Relations.

**Gwen Alexander, '96**, will finish her Ph.D. in Economics this spring at the University of Maryland, College Park. In August, she will be moving to New York City to take an Assistant Professor position at Fordham University. There, she will be teaching principles of microeconomics and development economics at the undergraduate level, and math economics and development at the graduate level. Gwen recalls looking for an academic job as "a draining experience (except for that dinner with Dr. Leekley and Dr. Seeborg on Bourbon St. - we met at the American Economic Association meetings in January). However, it was worth it - I have a job that I really believe I'll enjoy. I think that the reason why I was so drawn to Fordham is because it reminded me so much of IWU, with its small classes & friendly faculty."

**David Antolik, '97**, is enjoying working for Pheonix Equity Partners - London, UK.

**Jaynanne Calaway, '99**, is a consultant for Towers Perrin, a human resource management and actuarial consulting firm. She explains her job by saying, "I actually work in 2 different lines of business: (1) Executive Compensation and (2) People Performance Solutions (compensation, strategic staffing, employee communications, change management, organizational strategy & development)." Jaynanne regards IWU as a second home, "...filled with lots of wonderful memories of academic, social and personal growth. Many of my best friends yet today are friends and professors I met at IWU."

**Faizal Chaudhury, '96**, is just about to celebrate 5 years in public accounting. (Yikes!) He is a 3rd year Senior Auditor with Ernst & Young in Chicago. Faizal did a residency with the M&A Due Diligence group of Ernst and Young last summer and is currently contemplating a move to that group in the near future.

**Dimitrius Dakakas, '97** has finished his MA in Agriculture and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. He is now back in Greece to pursue a PhD in derivatives and options at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki (UOM).

**Justin Etnyre, '99**, works for Ronald J. Krumm and Associates, a strategic marketing firm for membership based portfolios (credit cards, etc), as a Data Analyst. His position takes on different roles depending on the day including programming in SAS, creating client reports, creating client presentations, profiling client's portfolios, and data exploration. Justin has some big news for us, "I am getting married to Amber Johnson, class of 2001, in May of this year."

**Paul Halley, '94**, is the Product Manager of ERP software at SAP. He and his wife, Diana Halley Johnson, '94, are expecting their first child this July.

**Jennifer Heskett, '97**, is currently a Programmer/Analyst for a retail jewelry company in the Chicago Loop. Looking back on her education, "I have not once utilized any of those economic models and theories that I studied; however, the analytical skills I developed as an economics major helped me get my foot in the door of the IT industry." Jennifer would like to say, "Best wishes to all the graduating seniors."

**Pat Holly, '99**, is a Quality Assurance Manager for Hewitt Associates. Essentially, this job consists of making sure things work before they are implemented (internet sites, system data storage and accuracy, etc).

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According to Pat, "...lots of time is spent on Cost/Benefit analysis, especially in the planning stages - Something Dr. Leekley would like to hear in his Public Finance class." Pat recently had a happy change in his life, "I married this past September to another IWU alum, Theresa Trost ('99), now Theresa Holly."

**Jaclyn Hood, '99**, is currently with Hewitt Associates as a Business Analyst.

**Kimberly (Nelson) Lawson, '96**, is in the field of Project Management at Hewitt Associates, a Benefits Consulting firm. She married in 1998, but reports: "No kids, no pets - yet," and she says she is looking to move to the San Francisco area this fall.

**Kris Kaneta, '00**, is currently is working at Wells Fargo Financial as a Credit Manager in the Palatine office. His advice for Econ majors is, "take as many economics classes as possible because they're all different and while you may not be able to apply everything to the real world, you certainly start to view the world a little differently. Also take econometrics, if it hasn't already been made a requirement, and research honors if you can."

**Nathan Knuffman, '98**, has completed a Masters in Public Policy program at the University of Maryland, specializing in Environmental policy. He is now working at the office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C.

**Richard Koenig, '89**, is the Executive Director of the Interfaith Housing Development Corporation, a non-profit that develops affordable housing in Chicago's northern suburbs in which Richard has developed about \$16 million worth of affordable housing units in the past three years. He has a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois and emphasizes that his background in Economics [from IWU] really helped prepare him for his career. He currently resides in Chicago with his wife Sheri who is corporate controller for an international software development company.

**Elizabeth Kowalski, '00**, is working for Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive search firm, doing

research in their financial services practice.

**Steve Krull, '98**, has been working at Stein Roe & Farnham since graduation. He is currently the Leveraged Loan Trader in the Leveraged Loan Group of the Fixed Income Department, and says that his degree in economics from IWU has been extremely useful (especially the Money and Banking class). He recently bought a condo on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and got engaged.

**Robin Meers, '00**, is working as an underwriter for Modern Woodmen of America - a fraternal like insurance company in Moline.

**Bryan C. McCannon, '98**, is finishing his third year as a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Penn State University. He has completed all field exams specializing in Game Theory and Industrial Organization and is working on papers dealing with the theory of product differentiation and product quality. He is also working as an instructor at Penn State teaching Introductory Macroeconomics.

**David Rudd, '96**, earned an MS in Foreign service from Georgetown University in 1997. He was an Inside Sales Representative for American President Lines, Limited, from 1998 to 2000. He is now an Inside Sales Representative for Technology Builders.

**Guerric Russell, '97**, graduated from Hofstra University School of Law last May and is now working for a mid-sized law firm on Wall Street. Interestingly, he is primarily involved in the area of admiralty and maritime law, which covers anything that happens out on a body of water. He is admitted to practice in New York and his admission into the New Jersey Bar is currently pending. Guerric now lives in Hoboken, New Jersey, and is "having a lot of fun finally being out of school."

**Anjali Shah, '98**, is currently working for the U.S. Department of Education as a Financial Analyst. She's also enrolled in accounting classes so she can sit for the CPA exam, and hopes to enroll in an MBA program within the next two years. Her work keeps her very busy with various audit/projects, including

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work for Senator Fred Thompson regarding the 2000 campaign. "Since college, I've been busy traveling the world, including London, the US Virgin Islands, Egypt, Hawaii, Morocco, and Paris."

**Thomas M. Smith, Ph.D., '92**, is currently working at National-Louis University, researching: the Study of Non-Profit Dance in the United States, Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Relationship Between Volunteering and Childhood Arts Education, The Motivation to Moonlight: Dual Job Holding Behavior Among Professionals, Occupational Mobility of Artists, and Occupational Mobility of Immigrants. Tom says the strengths of the economics program at IWU are "the accessibility of professors and the mix of classes that are offered (as well as required). In addition, the professors encouraged me to engage in research that was interesting to me."

**Larry Stimpert, '80**, is a faculty member in the Economics and Business Department at Colorado College. He and his wife have a son, Connor, who just turned one. Larry's answer to what's exciting in his life: "We're having a blast as parents!"

**Ming Sun Wan, '96**, pursued the stock brokerage industry upon graduation and moved to New York to be a trader for Asian markets and worked in NYC for 4 years. Last year he moved to Singapore to be the Vice President and Head of Asian Sales Trading with Prudential Securities Asia. Ming regards his time at IWU favorably, "I really enjoyed IWU as the environment was pleasant and there was a sense of belonging among the living halls as well as good faculty/student relations."

**Gnanika Wijyaratne (Suriarachchi), '94**, is currently attending graduate school at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX and seeking an MS in Human Resource Management. She will graduate in May, 2001. Gnanika has some exciting news - she and her husband Ravi became the parents of a baby boy, Niviru, on January 19, 2001. After graduation they will be moving to CA, and she will start work with Chevron Corporation, in San Ramon, CA.