



**MBJ 40 Under 40 2017  
Jamie Wagner, 29  
UNO**

**Nominated by Dawn Gonzales**

Dr. Jamie Wagner stumbled upon economics while completing her general education requirements at Hastings College. Originally she planned to major in mathematics and accounting, but after taking an economics class she changed majors and completed her bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics. She later received her master's degree and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Wagner now works to increase



**Wagner**

financial literacy, locally and nationally.

She splits her time between teaching college students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha as an assistant professor of economics and directing the UNO Center for Economic Education. While at the university, she also works alongside other professors on academic research papers pertaining to economics. Some topics focus on earlier education in finances. Wagner believes we should be teaching children the basics of finances earlier than high school or college.

As the center director, Wagner tackles this issue through talking to all age groups about economics. She has talked to Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, K-12 students, teachers, and organizations participating in her presentations or workshops. She developed game segments,

like six-in-sixty, to make concepts easier to understand.

In addition to her work at the center, Wagner has held workshops for the Colorado Council on Economic Education and the National Center for Economic Education in New York. As a professor with the Foundation for Teaching Economics, she also leads economic camps, where she teaches students and their teachers. She also has presented for several organizations including the American Economic Association and the National Association of Economic Educators.



**MBJ 40 Under 40 2017**

**Leah Vetter, 35  
Arthur J. Gallagher**

**Nominated by Tracy Swearingen**

Leah Vetter, area president at Arthur J. Gallagher, has substantially helped her firm establish a greater footprint in its Nebraska and Iowa market.

Vetter's enthusiasm and passion for the industry has much to do with the impact it has on individuals, as insurance coverage protects individuals financially when they need it most and it enable businesses to recruit and retain employees.

For the past five years, Vetter has been greatly involved in building Gallagher's presence by identifying employee benefits solutions to the company's clients.

Vetter plays a vital role in the mentoring of both sales and account management staff, working to help retain clients through recruiting top talent into the organization and by building a strong network within the Heartland Region. In addition to working with the production team on new sales initiatives, she is responsible for the oversight of her current book of business and is working to grow the branch by seeking out merger partners.

Vetter is a member of Omaha Suburban Rotary, Omaha Venture Group and serves as

vice president for the Nebraska State Association of Health Underwriters, and immediate past president for the Omaha Chapter.



**Vetter**



### Briefs...

**Angela Dunne**, managing partner at Koenig/Dunne, was selected for the 2017 Great Plains Super Lawyers list. Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business, is a rating service for lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Dunne was previously named a Rising Star for Super Lawyers in both 2014 and 2015.



**Dunne**

**Access Systems** is relocating its La Vista branch that serves the greater Omaha area. The new office, located at 8720 S 114th St., Ste 100, is now open.

**Professional Research Consultants, Inc.**'s Jan Gnida and Audrey Page have earned the credential of Certified Patient Experience Professional. Gnida is director of patient and government surveys and Page is a senior healthcare experience consultant. The certification, awarded by Patient Experience Institute, signifies that recipients possess the qualities of a leader who influences the systems, processes, and behaviors that cultivate positive experiences. Once certified, a CPXP must maintain his or her certification every three years and remain active in the field.

**Derek Leathers**, president and chief executive officer of **Werner Enterprises** was presented the American Trucking Associations' Highway to Victory Award for outstanding industry advocacy efforts. In 2017, Leathers testified in front of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, emphasizing the need for Congress to work collectively with the industry to improve safety, freight movement, infrastructure investments and workforce development.

**Select Van & Storage Co.** was honored by the Mayflower van line for exceptional professional performance. Select Van & Storage Co. received the following honors: Million Dollar Club Award at the \$5 million level; and Hauling Achievement Award, recognizing exceptional service support of the Mayflower system through participation in the van line's fleet operations including both household goods and logistics.

**I-GO Van & Storage Co.**, an agent of United Van Lines, has been honored by United Van Lines for exceptional professional achievement. I-GO Van & Storage Co. received the following recognition: President's Club Award at the \$5 million level.

**CI Select**, a workplace design and furnishings firm for corporate, education, health care, government, hospitality and nonprofit sectors,

has expanded into Omaha and Lincoln with a grand opening on November 9. The expansion comes after Knoll, a firm in contemporary workplace environments, reached out to CI Select and expressed interest in a joint venture. Jamie Shook, director of client solutions, has relocated to Omaha to manage the new operation. Joining her are Lisa Kaderly, director of business development, and Audrey Dobbe, sales account executive/Knoll representative.

Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley presented **ServeNebraska's** 10 volunteers and organizations with Step Forward awards. The following are the honorees: Lifetime Achievement, Ruth McKinstry; TD Ameritrade, Friend of ServeNebraska; Adult Volunteer, Justin Evertson; Youth Volunteer Leadership, Cooper Bates; Volunteer Group, Union College; Corporate Community Volunteer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska; National Service Volunteer, Martin Macias Jr.; Veteran Volunteer, Jim Cada; Disaster Volunteer, Reynolds Davis; and Community Media Partner, Lincoln Journal Star Neighborhood Extra.

The Iowa Tourism Office and Travel Federation of Iowa recognized **Council Bluffs** with three honors at the annual Iowa Tourism Awards. These awards were three of 27 presented in 13 categories for nominees from across the state of Iowa in both metro and rural areas. The awards were "Outstanding Community," "Outstanding Event" for Loessfest, and "Outstanding Website" for UNleashCB.com.

**American Wealth Partners, LLC**, a wealth management firm, has acquired the wealth management department of **American National Bank**. The partnership with American National Bank will allow the bank to increase focus on core banking services, and foster the entrepreneurial spirit of tenured team members. Although operating independently of the bank as a new company, American Wealth Partners retains its offices in American National Bank branch locations.

The **Nonprofit Association of the Midlands** will be hosting Financial Services for Nonprofits, an event for new NAM members, on Dec. 19 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the NAM Training Office. NAM's Financial Services Director Tracy Shutt will help members with financial and accounting questions. Registration can be found online.

**DLR Group**, a global integrated design firm with 29 locations worldwide, has promoted **Heather Hughes**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, and **Daniel Siedhoff**, AIA, to Architecture Senior Association. DLR has also added **Sara Wolfe**, Associate IIDA, as an interior associate.

The **Omaha Northwest Rotary's** 2017 Able Workplace Award was given to **Central**

**States Healthy & Life Company** and **Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering**. The award recognizes employers that have done a particularly effective job of recruiting, enabling and retaining individuals with disabilities. Award recipients were determined by surveying social service agencies that place individuals with disabilities into the workplace.

**Thrasher, Inc.**, best known in Nebraska and Iowa for fixing leaky basements and failing foundations, will expand to cover Kansas this fall. Greg Thrasher of Thrasher, Inc. and Danny Morrow of Kansas Basement and Foundation Repair have been long-time friends and industry colleagues. After months of planning and outlining details for the purchase of Kansas Basement and Foundation Repair, the deal was closed on August 1. Thrasher has hired all 30 former Kansas Basement and Foundation Repair employees and is in the process of hiring for five additional

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positions in Kansas.

**HM Cragg**, a 100-percent employee-owned company engaged in the sale and service of critical power systems across multiple markets, signed an agreement with **Generac Power Systems** to be the sole distributor to represent Generac Industrial Power throughout Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa.

**Visit Omaha's** recreation of Omaha's Old Market Entertainment District received third place, out of 700 organizations, for best trade show booth at the American Society of Association Executives' Annual Meeting & Expo in Toronto, Canada. Last year Visit Omaha received top honors for best booth. This year Visit Omaha created its own play money. "Omaha Bucks" were included in welcome packets to encourage participants to go shopping at the Visit Omaha booth. ASAE first-time attendees judged the booths on a number of factors including company identity, product presentation, design elements, exhibit personnel and overall presence on the tradeshow floor.

**Darland Construction** completed a three-year expansion and remodel project at Perkins County Health Services in Grant, Nebraska. The 51,000-square-foot project included a 28,884-square-foot addition. The two-story addition includes 20 patient rooms, with spaces for labor and delivery, isolation and intensive care as well as an endoscopy suite and new emergency department with drive-up entrance. A new physical therapy area, cardio rehab center, conference room and IT office space are located in the addition's lower level. Renovations to the existing hospital included a new laboratory, administration area, two updated operating rooms

and a specialty clinic. The entire hospital also underwent a full mechanical upgrade.



## APPOINTMENTS

### Nebraska Community Foundation

Two community leaders were recently elected to the Nebraska Community Foundation board of directors



Kurt Kruse



Jane Moreland

**Kurt Kruse** is a native of Albion, Nebraska. He owns and operates Kruse Farms, a grain and cattle-feeding enterprise in Boone County. **Kruse** is currently serving on the board of directors of the Boone/Nance County Cattlemen, and has served at the state level on the Nebraska Cattlemen board. **Kruse** is chair of **Nebraska Community Foundation's** Boone County Community Foundation Fund, whose mission is to work together and inspire investment in Boone County's quality of life.

**Kruse** is also a member of the Albion Education Foundation advisory board, the Good Samaritan Society advisory group and has served on the Farm Credit advisory board.

**Kruse** is a graduate of Hastings College with a degree in business. He and his wife, Jerene, a retired art teacher, live on

an acreage just outside of Albion. **Kruse** is excited to join **Nebraska Community Foundation** and help communities work together to grow and prosper.

Also joining the board is **Jane Moreland** of Imperial, Nebraska. After graduating from UNL with a degree in business administration, she and her husband, Mike, returned to Chase County where they raised crops, cattle, and thoroughbred race horses. **Moreland** was the owner and broker of Moreland Realty for over 35 years.

**Moreland** is a member of the Imperial Community Foundation Fund advisory committee, and has been active with the Imperial Chamber of Commerce board and the Imperial School Board. She is a member of Rotary Club and past-president of the Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

**Moreland** is pleased that both her sons and a daughter-in-law own three businesses on Broadway Street in Imperial. She looks forward to being a part of the **Nebraska Community Foundation** board, and is excited about the growth and impact of **Nebraska Community Foundation** and its local affiliated funds.

**Nebraska Community Foundation** empowers community leaders, builds nonprofit capacity, and links charitable giving to the creation of greater economic opportunity and prosperity.

Headquartered in Lincoln, the **Foundation** serves communities, donors and organizations by providing financial management, strategic development, education and training to a statewide network of 1,500 volunteers serving 250 communities.

In the last five years, 39,142 contributions have been made to **Nebraska Community Foundation** and its affiliated funds. Since 1993, **Nebraska Community Foundation** has reinvested \$292 million in Nebraska's people and places. For information, visit [NebraskaHometown.org](http://NebraskaHometown.org).



# GEORGE MARBURGER PURCHASES THE HUMBOLDT STANDARD

*SOLD! By Roxanne Sailors*

After weeks of speculation as to the fate of the *Humboldt Standard*, Jack Cooper made an announcement last Friday. The new owner of the *Humboldt Standard* is, George Marburger!

George, a local businessman, was one of many people concerned that the paper remain in the community, for the community. Jane Hogue will continue with the Standard as Office Manager, and Roxanne Sailors will assume the Editor position.

Jack purchased the *Humboldt Standard* 42 years ago, on April 1, 1975, from Wayne Friedly.

Jack has received many awards during his newspaper career, with plaques from Five Rivers, American National Bank, Nebraska Press, Rotary International, Lions Club, Home State bank and Trust and Jaycees. Possibly his most notable award was in April of 2014, when he was presented the Harpst Award at the Nebraska Press Convention held in Grand Island that year. The Leadership Nebraska Award was created and funded by the Harpst Family to recognize a Nebraska Press Association newspaper or publisher that best illustrates efforts in promoting leadership within their community, such as news articles about youth groups that foster leadership, community leadership organizations and their participants, or information about alumni of leadership groups and success stories as these

individuals go on to actual community leadership posts.

The nomination letter to Nebraska Press stated in part: "For practically his entire career, Jack has set a positive and hopeful record by focusing on our community and its importance within the county, region and state. No other person has had the influence as Jack Cooper in coalescing a community to continue to keep our town alive and relevant. His leadership can be counted upon in practically any situation; his cooperation is guaranteed."

George Marburger's commitment to the community and countless hours of volunteer work in the City of Humboldt is a perfect match for the future of the *Humboldt Standard*. George took possession of the newspaper December 1.

Marburger is a name known to Humboldt since the mid-1800's. Marburger Shoes opened the door in 1879, first in the building West of Best Printing, then relocated to the building on 3rd Street, before settling in the current location on the East side of the Square.

George took over the family business in 1996. Upon presentation of his new office key, George said he had been given lots of advice about running the newspaper in the last couple of days, which mainly boiled down to "stay out of the girls' way".

George will maintain the Marburger Shoe Shop and his repair business on the East side of the Square