

Coreen Geary, B.S., 1993; M.A. 1995

Coreen Geary, a three-time graduate of Western Michigan University, received her B.A. in philosophy and her B.S. in public relations graduating *magna cum laude* in 1993. She was a 1993 Department of Philosophy's Presidential Scholar and a recipient of the department's Friedmann Prize. Coreen also received her M.A. in organizational communication in 1995, during which time she was a graduate research assistant and graduate assistant and moderator for the Third National Communications Ethics Conference.

Coreen has a passion for working in biotechnology and precision medicine. Currently, she is a Global Marketing Programs Manager with Exact Sciences and has spent the last few years as a marketing leader in the biotechnology space, most recently in companion diagnostics for oncology precision medicine. Her recent successes include starting up new business units and launching new in-vitro diagnostic medical devices in precision oncology. Her career spans healthcare, education, philanthropy, human capital management, genomics, biotechnology, diagnostics, and pharmaceutical industries.

Coreen has presented at national marketing conferences on the topic of marketing automation technologies and garnering data and insights through martech stack integration. She has also led rebranding and brand integration for several of her employers during her career. She is a member of the Southwest Michigan chapter of the American Marketing Association and served as a board member for several years. She has also served on the board of other professional associations and on Kalamazoo community nonprofit committees.

Coreen lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with her spouse Kavan, who is also a Bronco. Together they have three children, ages 14, 12 and 12, and a menagerie of pets. Coreen enjoys having date nights with her spouse, traveling with her family, and supporting her children's academic and extracurricular activities.

Marie Lee, M.A., 1999

Marie Lee has been the owner of Encore Publications and editor of *Encore* magazine since 2011. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Idaho State University and an M.A. degree in communication from Western Michigan University. Her career has focused on integrated marketing communications. She started her career as a reporter and editor on a daily newspaper in Idaho and moved into higher education public relations working for several colleges and universities, including Boise State University and WMU. She also has experience working in marketing communications for nonprofits and advertising agencies and taught communications and public relations courses in the School of Communication at WMU. In addition, she works closely with author Peter Northouse, providing editing and writing for his books, *Leadership: Theory and Practice* and *Introduction to Leadership: Concepts and Practice*, and as co-author of *Leadership Case Studies in Education*.

Marie and her husband, Krieg, purchased Encore Publications in 2011, which includes *Encore* magazine, which observed its 50th year in 2022. In addition to publishing *Encore*, the company provides production and ad sales for *Excelsior*, Kalamazoo Public Schools' monthly publication,

and works with clients on specialty publications. She is on the leadership committee for the Southwest Michigan Journalism Collaborative, has served on the Downtown Kalamazoo Partnership's Coalition for Place, and on the marketing committee for The Gilmore Piano Festival.

Marie has lived in Kalamazoo since 1996. She has one son, Michael, who is attending Western Michigan University majoring in aviation flight science.

Jauwanna Pitts, B.A., 2009

Jauwanna (pronounced Jah-Wana) earned her B.A. in interpersonal communication from Western Michigan University in 2009 and her MBA with a concentration in human resources from the University of Phoenix in 2013. Jauwanna has a variety of experience with recruitment, staffing, training and development, and demonstrating best practices regarding HR and nonprofit laws. She has worked as a recruiter, as a collection specialist for One West Bank, in customer support at Stryker, and as Employment Manager at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. After leaving Kalamazoo Valley Community College, she joined Goodwill as their director of Human Resources and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Jauwanna is an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the Kalamazoo Human Resource Management Association, aiding in her continuous growth in HR, as well as contributing to her passion for helping people find resources to help them navigate through life.

Lucia Rios, B.A., 2002

Lucia Rios' received her B.A. in Journalism from WMU in 2002. Her life in college and over a 20-year working career has included giving a voice to and empowering those with disabilities. During 15 years on staff at Disability Network Lakeshore, she helped businesses identify ways to become accessible and instructed young adults as they transitioned from school to career. As a journalist, Lucia's writing focuses on disability issues, including living with her lifelong disability. Lucia is co-editor for the Disability Inclusion Series, a multi-year series that appears in *The Lakeshore West Michigan*, *Rapid Growth*, and *Second Wave Southwest Michigan*. The series explores the state of West Michigan's growing disability community. She mentors the next generation of advocates and serves on several local boards, including the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland area and the Family Hope Foundation. She also co-founded Women of Color Give, a philanthropic group empowering and investing in projects for and by individuals of color along the West Michigan Lakeshore. Lucia removes barriers and creates access through her presence, voice, and activism, which includes her current work at Salesforce in the Office of Accessibility.

Christopher Sell, B.A., 2007

Chris Sell is a business developer, fundraiser, project manager, and career educator. At his core, he's passionate about creating community and connecting people to opportunity. Chris is a graduate of Western Michigan University (BA, 2007) and completed his Master's degree (MA) in Higher Education Administration at Michigan State University in 2010. Chris serves as the Associate Director of Development at the Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation,

where he leads fundraising and alumni relations for MSU's nationally ranked student entrepreneurship program.

Chris is also the Founder and Executive Director of Lansing 5:01, a non-profit organization that aims to retain and attract emerging talent to the Lansing region through events, programming, and place-based marketing initiatives that promote the Lansing region as a destination community for college graduates and returning professionals. Since its inception in 2015, Lansing 5:01 has welcomed over 30,000 emerging professionals to the region through 63 different events or programs.

In pursuit of his passion for fostering community and a sense of belonging, Chris has volunteered for several non-profits, having previously served on the board of directors at Impression 5 Science Center and the WMU School of Communication's External Advisory Board. Chris is a graduate of the Leadership Lansing program facilitated by the Lansing Chamber and was named one of the Lansing Chamber's "10 Over the Next Ten" young professionals in 2016.

In his spare time, Chris loves to run half marathons, go camping in Northern Michigan, boat or swim in Lake Charlevoix, and spend time with his family.

Stephanie Slingerland, B.A., 2002; M.A., 2007

Stephanie is a Lee Honors College graduate with a B.A. in journalism from Western Michigan University and an M.A. in communication from WMU as well. As Chief Philanthropy Officer Kellanova (formerly Kellogg Company), Stephanie is responsible for leading and implementing hunger and community impact initiatives as part of Kellanova's social and environmental purpose strategy. She serves as co-chair for the company's global Social/Environmental Council and leads impact reporting. In addition, she leads the U.S. giving campaign and other employee engagement activities. Stephanie serves as Executive Director for the Kellogg Company Fund and the Kellogg Employees' 25 Year-Fund, a private foundation assisting 25-year employees experiencing financial hardship.

Stephanie joined Kellogg in 2006 and progressed through a variety of communications roles with increasing responsibility until joining the Philanthropy team in 2016. Her previous roles included leading and executing global corporate reputation communications strategies to advance and promote Kellogg Company's reputation with key stakeholders. Before joining Kellogg, Stephanie worked as a technical writer and freelance journalist.

She currently serves as 2nd Vice Chair on the Board for the United Way of South Central Michigan and as Chair of the United Way Worldwide Global Corporate Leadership Advisory Council. She is also a member of the No Kid Hungry Leadership Council. Stephanie serves as co-chair on the External Advisory Board for the WMU School of Communication, and on the WMU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, and leadership team for the Women of Kellanova employee resource group.