

### Naomi Azuma '90

Naomi Azuma '90 graduated from Skidmore College with a BS in Studio Art and a concentration in Graphic Design. She moved to New York City upon graduation in 1994 and began her career as an Art Director and Creative Director in the fashion/beauty industries. After over 10 years with J.Crew, in March 2021, she decided to relaunch her consulting business, Azuma Creative, LLC. with a renewed focus on branding and female run businesses. She has also enjoyed working on her passion project, The Knot House, a brand that creates Macramé goods for humans, home and hound. Naomi and her husband, Herb have recently became full-time residents of Montauk, NY, where they enjoy the beach with their 3 rescue pups, Andy, Nalu and Diesel.





#### Erin Hanlon '95

Erin C. Hanlon '95 is currently a Research Associate Professor at the University of Chicago in the Department of Medicine, Section of Pediatric and Adult Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism. She received her undergraduate degree at Duke University and her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a behavioral neuroscientist, Dr. Hanlon has always been most interested in the relationship between behavior, brain mechanisms, and physiology that may impact human health, with particular focus on the links between circadian rhythms, sleep deficiency, obesity, and diabetes. Specifically, she has focused on the effect of sleep restriction on brain reward and feeding systems as well as peripheral metabolic systems in both rodent and human models. Most recently, Dr. Hanlon has published studies exploring the association between short sleep and the increased risk of obesity. Specifically, she examined how alterations in the endocannabinoid system, known to modulate hedonic feeding behavior, following sleep loss can lead to overeating and weight gain. Further, Dr. Hanlon demonstrated that obese individuals have a misaligned endocannabinoid rhythm, suggesting that circadian disruption in the this system may constitute a circadian-mediated mechanism contributing to the underlying pathophysiology of obesity.





# Conor Kaniewski '17

Connor Kaniewski '17 is a transaction manager on a corporate solutions group at Colliers International who specializes in capital markets-based transactions in complex real estate situations. Connor earned a B.A. in Economics with minors in Entrepreneurship and Writing from Wake Forest University.





#### Ella McCann '08

Jessica Ella McCann is Manager of External Relations and Strategic Partnerships for the Baumhart Center, an interdisciplinary center at Loyola University Chicago that prepares leaders to tackle society's most pressing challenges through education, engagement, and research.

Before joining Baumhart, Ella was an International Program Manager with Chicago Sister Cities International, an initiative of World Business Chicago, the Economic Development arm of the City of Chicago. In this capacity, Ella managed volunteer sister city committees; coordinated exchanges that focused on cultural arts and tourism, international business and economic development, global education and government relations between Chicago and its sister cities; facilitated international delegation visits; and produced CSCI program-wide events.

Ella is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in "Language as a Tool to Breakdown Cultural Barriers" from the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies at the University of Redlands in Southern California. Prior to joining Chicago Sister Cities International, Ella was the Outreach Coordinator at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago, managing school visits at Chicago Public Schools and introducing Japanese culture to Chicagoans. From 2012-2014, she lived in Japan and was an Assistant Language Teacher in Chiba Prefecture as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. Ella is fluent in Japanese and intermediate in Spanish.

In 2018, Ella was awarded "40 Game Changers Under 40 in Chicago" by the Urban Business Roundtable, presented by WVON and Ariel Investments. She currently serves on a number of international and local boards, including the Latin School of Chicago Alumni Board of Directors, President of the John Walt Foundation, the U.S. Japan Council, and the Japan America Society of Chicago Membership Committee.



## Jessica Mora '16

Jessica Mora '16 is a University of Chicago alumni with a B.A. in Public Policy and a minor in Romance Languages. She has professional experience in health research, marketing and finance. Jessica is also a High Jump Alum and has become increasingly involved with education research and organizations nationwide. She recently published her book, *Spread Your Wings and FLI*, aimed at helping first-gen, low-income students navigate higher education. When she is not writing or journaling, Jessica loves to perform theater and is actively involved in the circus: engaging in silks, acrobatics, salsa dancing, and juggling.





#### Linda E. Tucker '73

Linda Tucker returns to the Alumni Board after serving in the 1980s as a young alumna. Linda graduated from Howard University with a BA in English and obtained a law degree from University of Illinois College of Law. Linda's law career has included appellate litigation, real estate and commercial transactions. Linda, who with her husband Bill are long time Hyde Park residents, is the happy mother of two daughters. In addition to her previous service on the Alumni Board, Linda has served as a Director of The Ancona School, the Cook County Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago and Minority Legal Education Resources