

Guest column: Kara Palmer and Rob Kelly

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

#### We want to start this column about creating a diverse and welcoming environment at Mendoza by thanking the many of you

past year, we've been able to offer many workshops, listening sessions and surveys, partnerships with outside organizations and across campus, and even a new case competition devoted solely to DE&I. Together, these combined efforts speak to the importance we all place on recognizing the strength of a diverse College community. In this column, we want to highlight a particular DE&I initiative at the University that Mendoza has been an integral part of – the **Employee Resource Groups** (ERGs). <u>ERGs are formal groups</u>

who have devoted a lot of time and hard work to the effort. In the

sponsored by Human Resources created to support networking and social outlets for specific groups of employees, their family members and allies. They also assist the University with

recruitment, retention and educational activities. Their intention is to serve as a kind of gathering point for people who share common interests or concerns, and to strengthen a sense of belonging and community. There are currently eight ERGs on campus: Adelante Hispanos, Black Faculty and Staff Association, Association of Faculty and Staff of Chinese Heritage (FSCH), Notre Dame Staff of International Descent (NDSID), Notre Dame Veterans Association, Spectrum LGBTQ+ & Ally, THRIVE! Inspiring ND Women, and Young Leaders. This month, the University will launch a ninth ERG

for individuals with disabilities. Of these nine ERGs, Mendoza staff members are leading the efforts across three ERGs and several other staff members are actively involved: Christopher Hillak is a member of the steering committee for Spectrum LGBTQ+ & Ally, which aims to create an open and

leaders at the University of Notre Dame. Lindsey McIntyre serves as the chair on the Mentoring committee for Thrive! and the following staff also serve as committee members working to advance the mission of the ERG to include Jessica Noffsinger, Lisa Michaels, Cathi Kennedy and Janel

culture of acceptance, dignity and respect for all LGBTQ+ persons at Notre Dame.

safe space for LGBTQ+ staff to meet, share fellowship and join in the work to create an inclusive

• Kara Palmer is the president of Thrive! Inspiring ND Women, which is the largest ERG on campus and focuses on increasing opportunities for women to be recruited, retained and advanced as

Zakrzewski-Kuntz. Rob Kelly is the executive sponsor of a new ERG devoted to supporting individuals with disabilities. (Read more about Rob's involvement in this NDWorks story.) Rob welcomes anyone who wants to know more or get involved in the IWD ERG to reach out to him directly. • Phil Drendall is on the membership committee for Young Leaders of Notre Dame. We encourage all Mendoza faculty and staff to learn more and get involved with the ERGs, either to

support you in your specific needs or to provide support to others who may be facing challenges that you have already experienced and have some insights to offer. The groups also can be important

sources for networking, professional development and career advancement, and overall enrich your personal and professional journey as part of this great University. As **Dean Cremers** has said, "As a community that recognizes every person's intrinsic human dignity, it is incumbent on us to contribute to the flourishing of each individual and to contribute to our community, recognizing our reciprocal responsibilities and supporting one another. A spirit of diversity,

We are a stronger community when we recognize and celebrate diversity, and draw together to support

equity and inclusion reflects this fundamental belief and underlies all that we do."

Kara Palmer Senior Director of Administration and Program Management

<u>Check the calendar for upcoming event details</u>. Contact <u>mendozabusiness@nd.edu</u> for event posting

Senior Director of Operations

access.

Gratefully,

**CALENDAR** 

Ten Years Hence: Paving a Way for the Space Revolution

each other in our differing aspirations and needs.

### **APRIL 8** Ten Years Hence: Humans vs. Asteroids: Mitigating Risk and Expanding Opportunities

**UPCOMING** 

10:40 a.m.; Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business (more info) Marina Brozović is a radar scientist and an orbital dynamicist from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. Dr. Brozović observed hundreds of near-Earth asteroids with the Goldstone and Arecibo planetary radars, and she was involved in discoveries of a dozen binary and

Eric Thomas, mission manager for New Shepard, Blue Origin, is a former submarine officer and Notre

three triple asteroid systems, fourteen moons of Jupiter, and several Trans-Neptunian Objects.

#### Dame MBA. He studied nuclear physics and was commissioned in the US Navy at Miami University. The majority of his naval career was spent leading sailors onboard ballistic missile submarines in the

**APRIL 22** 

THRIVE!

10:40 a.m.; Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business (more info)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION Submissions welcome! Click <a href="mercoad-uc.new-100;">here</a> or email <a href="mercoad-uc.new-100;">mendozabusiness@nd.edu</a>.

Pacific where he served as reactor officer and then operations manager for a nuclear submarine.

## Committee, Engagement Committee, Mentoring Committee, and the Professional Development Committee.

Visit the Mendoza diversity, equity & inclusion resource portal on the Mendoza Exchange site to find

FAC/STAFF UPDATES & INFO

Submissions welcome! Click here or email mendozabusiness@nd.edu.

#### events, articles, workshops, videos and more to help you live out the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion both in the workplace and the classroom.

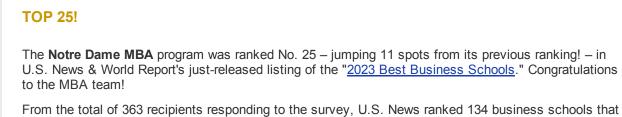
explanation of the ranking.

CAREER

THREE CHEERS

Thrive! Leadership Opportunities: Self-Nominations

Interested in professional development, networking, career growth and access to University senior leadership? Consider nominating yourself for one of the many leadership opportunities within Thrive! by the Thursday, April 14 deadline. All members are welcome to apply for board positions, the Communications



provided enough data on their full-time MBA programs and had large enough 2021 graduating classes seeking employment for valid comparisons. Visit the USN&WR methodology website for a full

 <u>Business Process & IT Solutions Engineer</u> (closes April 15) BOTFL Managing Program Director (closes April 28)

successful inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grow the Good in Business™ Case Competition, which held its final event on Friday. The incredible amount of work on the part of the leadership team as well as many Mendoza faculty and staff meaningfully advanced the College's

Thank you to all involved. Kristen also has heard from several of the student participants, including those who sent her this note (see image): "This competition has truly been the highlight of our Notre

efforts to build a culture of inclusivity and one that welcomes diversity.

# Dean Cremers writes: Kudos to Kristen Collett-Schmitt, Jessica McManus Warnell and Joan McClendon on the very



Dame experience."

**PUBLISHED & PRESENTED** 

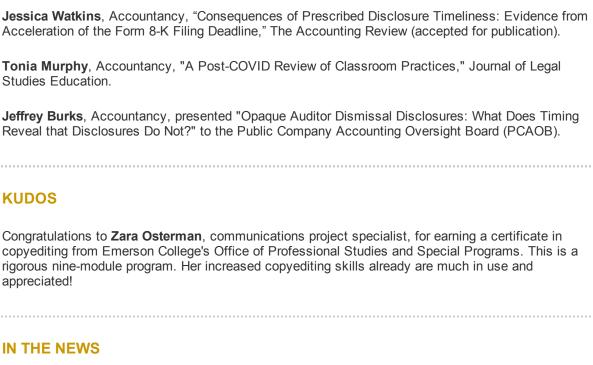
Studies Education.

**KUDOS** 

appreciated!

IN THE NEWS

For more stories and news, visit mendoza.nd.edu/new-events.

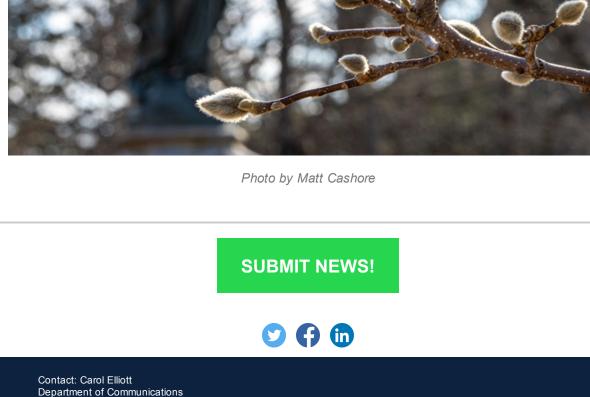


## Spring is officially here! Send photos of you and your family, pets or just signs of spring outside and on campus to mendozabusiness.nd.edu.

**ON CAMPUS** 

through storytelling. Read more here.

MNA student Brian Meagher has a passion for making the world a better place, and he's doing it



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