



## Leadership Spokane Alumni Newsletter- September 2021

### Event Calendar

**September 30th- Book Club (6:00pm, Virtual)**

**October 8<sup>th</sup>- Regional Economy Alumni Support Teams (8:00am-12:00pm, Various Sites)**

### **Meet Your Alumni Board**



**Chair:** Tami Dillon, Class of 2019, works for the non-profit Skills'kin. While originally from the west side of the state, Tami has called the Inland Northwest home for 20 years. As a mother of three boys, she is driven to make the greater Spokane area as vibrant and inclusive as possible. Tami is eager to serve on the Alumni Board and create more dialogue about how we can all plug into our community.



**Vice-Chair:** Ryan T. Smith, Class of 2018, also serves as a board member for the Spokane County Veterans Advisory Board. In his civilian employment, Ryan assists Army National Guard Brigade Combat Teams in training for upcoming missions. In the Reserves, Colonel Smith currently serves as the Army Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) for the State of Washington & FEMA Region X. Ryan is originally from Lone, Washington, and returned to Spokane area after 8 years on Active Duty.



**Secretary:** Brandon Crane, Class of 2019, is a Spokane and eastern Washington native growing up on the south hill and in Pullman around his grandparent's wheat farm. He's a graduate from SFCC and WSU and serves the Spokane community as a mechanical engineer for FSi Engineers, a member of the Inland Northwest chapter of ASHRAE, a den leader for his local scout pack, and a member of the Leadership Spokane Alumni Association.



Kelli Stewart Demarest, Class of 2016, has a passion for continued involvement in Leadership Spokane. She loves the relationships built and personal growth she has experienced through LS. She is a veteran Career and Technical Education teacher, currently teaching Graphic Design and acting as the Worksite Learning Coordinator at Ridgeline High School in the Central Valley School District. She has a previous eight-year career as the senior accountant for Gesa Credit Union in Richland, Washington. Kelli has been married to her high school sweetheart for 29 years. She loves her family which includes her husband, two adult daughters, son-in-

law, two Boston Terriers, and of course her extended family. You will find her cheering for her two alma maters WSU and Gonzaga!



Britt DeTienne, Class of 2019, is the Marketing and Communications Manager at the Spokane International Airport. He is originally from Wichita, Kansas and has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from the University of Kansas. In addition to the Alumni Board, he also serves on the Leadership Spokane Board. Britt and his wife Tiffany live in Spokane.



Korin Michielli, Class of 2021, is the development director at Joya Child & Family Development. She is a proud graduate of Eastern Washington University (GO EAGS) and a lifelong Spokane resident. Korin enjoys giving back to her community and is excited to continue to build relationships through Leadership Spokane's Alumni Board. Korin lives in Spokane Valley with her husband, son and two fur puppies.



Patty Shea, Class of 2003, is a Spokane native. She retired from Avista Utilities in 2019 after a 39-year career and immediately transitioned into starting her own business. She is owner of, Patty Shea Consulting, LLC, "Fixer of the Tough Stuff." She is a private pilot, motorcycle enthusiast, still loves driving her first car, a 1969 XR7 Cougar, and is finalizing the publication of her first book!



Whit Spencer, Class of 2018, has lived in Spokane for 40 years. A former Army Cavalry Scout, Whit serves the community as a Fire Equipment Operator and Paramedic for Spokane County Fire District 9. Whit also mobilizes to many of the wildfires in our region as a Logistics Section Chief with an all hazard incident management team. Whit is also a recent graduate of Whitworth University with a BA degree in Public Administration. During his time off from work Whit enjoys heading outdoors and can usually be found untying a knot in a fly line along one of our local rivers. Elysia Spencer, Class of 2016, and Whit have been married for 18 years and have two children, William (12), and Nicole (8).



Jason Verduzco, Class of 2021, is the Verizon Public Policy and Community Affairs Director for Eastern Washington and Idaho. He started his career with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in California and later moved to Spokane where he accepted a position with Bonneville Power Administration. Four years ago Verduzco moved into the wireless industry to work with Local and State Agencies to develop small cell deployment processes, wireless ordinances, and partnership agreements to help cities and communities access and develop technology.



Jen Westra, Class of 2020 (GOATs!), is the founder and coach at Life on Purpose Coaching. She loves being involved in the community and also serves on the boards of Spokane Public Radio and Girls on the Run. She lives with her husband and two cats and can often be found running or finding a sunny spot to enjoy a good book.



## **Book Club Gathering- Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Alumni Association's first Book Club event of the program year will take place on Thursday, September 30th. The group will view and discuss three powerful TedTalk presentations. A list of the videos is below, along with a link to each if you would like to view ahead of time:

Nashater Del Solheim: What Working With Pyschopaths Taught Me About Leadership  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKMgG9xlfEg>)

Simon Tam: Give Racism a Chance  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0ruluwb8vw>)

Jann Freed: Embracing Death: Life Through a Different Lens  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-5zSiuQD1o>)

The event will start at 6:00pm and take place virtually, and the Zoom meeting information will be posted on the Leadership Spokane Alumni Facebook group page closer to the event. We hope you can join us on September 30th!

## Two Great Ways for Alumni to Connect with the Class of 2022!



### Alumni Support Teams- Regional Economy Day- Friday, October 8th

Leadership Spokane Alumni, how would you like to have some fun and get to meet members of the current class?

The Class of 2022's Regional Economy Day is taking place on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, and as part of the class day members will be participating in a scavenger hunt that takes them to several area businesses impacting the Spokane economy. We're looking for a few alumni to station themselves at each check-in station and root on class members as they arrive at each location. You'll get a chance to interact with other alumni and introduce yourselves to the current class as they make their way through the hunt.

The scavenger hunt takes place from 8:00am-12:00pm. We're looking for a few volunteers to serve in two or four hour increments at each location. To see what locations are included in the hunt and to sign up go to (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e48acac29a0f58-regional>).



## **Alumni Scan Teams**

Can't make it out to one of the scavenger hunt sites on October 8<sup>th</sup>! No problem. There is another great opportunity to interact with Class of 2022 members.

One of the highlights of being in Leadership Spokane is the opportunity to participate in a scan team. Not only does the group work together to prepare a topical presentation for the class, they also have the chance to get to know each other in the process. Good news, Leadership Spokane Alumni- you now have the chance to relive the experience by serving on an Alumni Scan Team!

At each class day an Alumni Scan team will have the floor for one hour. During that time they can discuss the day's topic with the Class of 2022 in any way they like, such as an activity, presentation, game etc. It's up to you!

Alumni Scan Teams are needed for the following days: Governance (Nov. 5); Communication (Dec. 3); Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Jan. 7); Education (Feb. 4); Human Needs (Mar. 4); Arts (Apr. 15); and Healthy Communities (May 6). If you are interested in signing up to be part of an Alumni scan team, email [leadership@leadershipspokane.org](mailto:leadership@leadershipspokane.org).

## **Join The 1983 Society!**

Leadership Spokane Alumni, have you joined The 1983 Society yet?

Your Leadership Spokane experience doesn't have to end at commencement. To help continue and enhance your experience further, and make your involvement as a Leadership Spokane alum as meaningful as possible, become a member of The 1983 Society. Formerly The Legacy Society, The 1983 Society's mission is to build and foster a legacy of leadership in the Spokane area through GROWth opportunities that effectively strengthen our community. These opportunities include networking, educational and community service events throughout the year that are only offered to 1983 Society members.

To learn more about The 1983 Society and sign up visit <https://leadershipspokane.org/what-we-do/alumni/1983-society.html>.

## **Thrive Spokane Community Survey**

Leadership Spokane is participating in the Steering committee for THRIVE Spokane. We are excited to announce the website for THRIVE Spokane (the Spokane region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update) is LIVE. THRIVE Spokane is currently in the planning process stage, with the first phase of the project focused on data collection and analysis and community engagement. We encourage you to visit [www.ThriveSpokane.org](http://www.ThriveSpokane.org) to learn more and take the community survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LMPPS56>. Please be sure to spread this news through your networks to help us reach as broad of an audience as possible.