

March 4, 2010

Greater Omaha Young Professionals Summit

Your Seat at the Table

Steering Committee Members

Haley Pille



As a marketing coordinator at HDR, Haley Pille spends her day winning federal engineering projects. When she's not hard at work, she enjoys a fierce Scrabble match with her husband, Tom. Haley is currently searching for her dream house and recently honeymooned in Jamaica. She also enjoys a good Bon Jovi cover, played at a Secret Weapon show (80s music rocks my socks!). She considers herself a vintage romantic comedy fan and loves herself some Fantasy Football every Sunday.

Sarah Johnson



When she's not helping plan the YP Summit or working as operations manager at *The Reader*, you can find her chowing down on a bowl of mac and cheese or enjoying a refreshing gin and tonic with friends. Making her home in the north Dundee neighborhood, Sarah also enjoys running, reading and getting together with family.

Meagan Hall



Originally from South Dakota, a career at HDR brought Meagan to Omaha three years ago (that, and the bitchin' music scene). When not protecting wetlands, least terns and piping plovers from development in her job as an environmental scientist, Meagan gets her fill of geek science humor from watching "Big Bang Theory." Meagan is doing such a good job as Summit programming chair, interviewing and interacting with break-out presenters, that Mark Pohl told her that she's his favorite programming chair — wait, she's the only programming chair!

Anna Detrich (@adetrich)



Anna is a small-town Kansas native, but has slowly developed quite an affinity for the Huskers. A job relocation brought her to Omaha in August 2005, and she has loved getting to know the city and is proud to call it home. Anna works for Sage Hospitality Resources as director of marketing for Holiday Inn Convention Center and CoCo Key Water Resort, where every day is a bright and sunny 84 degrees. She has a deep appreciation for wide-open skies and spectacular thunderstorms, proper spelling and grammar and her Dundee neighborhood.

Nichole Brown



Nichole lives by the Optimist Creed and believes in the golden rule! "Treat people as you would want to be treated." This rule, however, does not apply during road rage. Addicted to CrossFit her newest goal is to reach the 250 lb dead lift club by Christmas. She is a health conscious person who occasionally indulges in dark chocolate, red wine and La Mesa. Daughter of a retired police officer, she is hooked on Unsolved Mysteries and Cold Case Files. Currently, Nichole and her fiancé Brock are looking forward to their upcoming wedding in Negril, Jamaica! Nichole volunteers as the recruitment advisor for the Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta at UNO and is also a member of Hospitality Sales and Marketing International and Meeting Professionals International. Monday through Friday Nichole is a sales manager for the Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau, promoting Omaha as a meeting and visitor destination.

Mark Pohl



A self-proclaimed Wii bowling expert (high score 299-no cheats!), Mark's favorite childhood TV show is Saved By The Bell. (Aren't those reruns great?) When he's not cramming for one of his MBA exams or helping plan the Summit, Mark volunteers with his church's youth group, trying to talk sense into hormonal high school students. Mark is married to his high school sweetheart, Sara, and the two enjoy chasing their Sheltie puppy around the yard. Mark considers his highest achievement (literally) climbing Long's Peak in Colorado – a 14 thousand foot mountain! And in his real job as an industrial engineer at OPPD, he reviews business processes and works to reduce cost and increase efficiency.

Dan Holke (@danholke)



Since I was raised in Kansas I had few adjustments coming north, other than getting used to all that red. I have allegiances to KState and my wife Lisa graduated from UNL, so when the Wildcats play the Huskers (whether it be football, basketball, volleyball, baseball) our four kids are transformed into what we call "CornCats." (who knew red and purple could look so good together!) I graduated from Creighton, so the Bluejays get my allegiance when they play the Huskers. (CU needs to get that football team reassembled from 60-some years ago) If UNO (where I earned my MBA) would ever get to play UNL, I would be cheering for the Mavs. Catching a pattern here? Actually, I really am a Husker fan against all other teams ... of course it might be time to get that Ph.D. from Iowa State! When I'm not following sports or enjoying other family activities, I'm managing a business intelligence team at Mutual of Omaha, improving information delivery for our customers.

Umang D. Talati



Originally from Florida, Umang is a critically acclaimed chef here in the Omaha metropolitan area (many on the YP board can vouch for this), Umang's favorite food is pizza and baba-ghanouj (God bless the Mediterranean basin!) When he is not busy creating culinary masterpieces or helping to sell everyone on the idea that Omaha is the place to be, Umang takes pleasure in spending time with friends and volunteering with the Conference for Inclusive Communities where he helps to build bridges to a better society today! Wherever Umang goes, Umang runs into somebody he knows through either Creighton or his many philanthropic endeavors. Umang's commitment to make Omaha a capital for young professionals is sometimes so strong that he will wade through the trenches and feet of snow to make it happen. Literally, he did because he had to walk to a main street to be able to get picked up to get to the Summit a few years ago since he was snowed in. What a success that Summit and every Summit since has been! Umang is currently looking for career advancement opportunities in the legal or consulting profession since he comes gifted with both a JD and an MBA.

Katrina Olsen (@divakatrina)



When Katrina is not planning the YP Summit After Party she is playing softball, volleyball, singing karaoke, going to concerts or driving her kids from one activity to the next. This Omaha native and Westside grad enjoys giving back to the city she calls home. She is PTA volunteer, softball coach and Next Generation Omaha board member. She believes that Omaha can be considered a YP and artistic epicenter if our YP groups and non-profits continue to collaborate and develop, and she is strongly committed to doing her part in seeing these goals come to fruition. Katrina recently made an employment change. She is now the marketing specialist for Allied Oil & Supply, a midwest distributor of tires, oil and lubricants. One interesting fact most close friends are even unaware of: she named the Omaha Lancers mascot, Blades, when she was just 12-years-old in a Lancer Booster Club contest. You may very well run into her and her boyfriend in various watering holes in Northwest Omaha - especially if they have Big Buck Hunter (ironic for a vegetarian)!

Kirsten Case-Penrod (@omahadaisy)



When not working with Omaha's best volunteers on projects like the Summit, Kirsten can be found working on home improvement projects. These generally lead to even more projects and sometimes cool discoveries in her old Dundee house. With three kids in her blended family, a husband and an assortment of pets to keep up with, Kirsten enjoys reading whenever she gets a moment to herself. Ask her what she is reading, she probably has it in her bag with her. Kirsten would likely choose Cupcake Island's almond cupcakes as the only food she would need to survive on a deserted island. Since she recently completed grad school in a year, she is now focused on training for a trip that will consist of walking across northern Spain this coming summer.