

2023 INDUCTION CELEBRATION

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“ In PR, we’re all about opening doors – to new ideas, fresh perspectives, infinite possibilities. Without us saying a word, our swag bags. ”

Elyse Hammett, APR, Fellow PRSA
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta



Promotional
Products
Work!

2023 INDUCTION CELEBRATION

Welcome

J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA, 2023 Chair, College of Fellows

Class of 2023 Inductees

Montrie Rucker Adams, APR, Fellow PRSA
Kelliann Amico, APR, Fellow PRSA
Jenny Barker, APR, Fellow PRSA
Jennifer Regen Bisbee, APR, Fellow PRSA
Carolyn Smith Casertano, APR, Fellow PRSA
Jacque Coe, APR, Fellow PRSA
Marcia DiStaso, APR, Fellow PRSA
Chrisie L. Goodman, APR, Fellow PRSA
David W. Honchul, APR, Fellow PRSA
Meredith Libbey, APR, Fellow PRSA

Joyce Lofstrom, APR, Fellow PRSA
Mark Mohammadpour, APR, Fellow PRSA
Lori M. Quiller, APR, Fellow PRSA
Raquel Rivera Torres, APR, Fellow PRSA
Frances A. Stephenson, APR, Fellow PRSA
Ann Marie Varga, APR, Fellow PRSA
Samantha Villegas, APR, Fellow PRSA
David Vossbrink, APR, Fellow PRSA
Brandon Wilson, APR, Fellow PRSA

Introduction of Inductees

Philip Poole, APR, Fellow PRSA, 2023
Chair-Elect and Selection Committee Chair

Ronele Dotson, APR, Fellow PRSA, 2023
Vice Chair and Induction Committee Chair

Presentation of Medallions and Pins

J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA

Margaret Ann Hennen, APR, Fellow PRSA,
Immediate Past Chair

Sage Award Presentation

Kathy Barbour, APR, Fellow PRSA, Sage
Award Committee Co-Chair
Mark Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA, Sage Award
Committee Co-Chair

Judy Wicks, APR, Fellow PRSA,
Sage Award Committee Co-Chair

Gold Anvil 75th Anniversary Recognition of 2023 Gold Anvil Award Recipient

J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA

Patrick Jackson Award for Distinguished Service to PRSA

J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA

Champagne Toast

Michelle Egan, APR, Fellow PRSA, 2023 PRSA Board Chair

Closing Remarks

J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA

A dessert reception and cash bar will follow the program.

2023 College of Fellows Executive Committee and Leadership Team



Chair

J.W. Arnold,
APR, Fellow PRSA



Chair-Elect

Philip Poole,
APR, Fellow PRSA



Vice Chair

Ronele Dotson,
APR, Fellow PRSA



Secretary-Treasurer

Paula Pedene,
APR, Fellow PRSA



Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Ana Toro, APR, Fellow PRSA



Immediate Past Chair

Margaret Ann Hennen,
APR, Fellow PRSA

CPRE Board

Kelly Davis, APR, Fellow PRSA
Amiso George, APR, Fellow PRSA

FellowsCHAT

Wendy Kurtz, APR, Fellow PRSA
Jo Ann LeSage Nelson, APR, Fellow PRSA

GoodFellows

Jamie Floer, APR, Fellow PRSA
Jennifer Grizzle, APR, Fellow PRSA
Kevin Waetke, APR, Fellow PRSA

Mentoring

Ellen Crane, APR, Fellow PRSA
Gail Rymer, APR, Fellow PRSA
Dave Thompson, APR, Fellow PRSA

Professional Development

Pam Campbell, APR, Fellow PRSA
Katherine Hutt, APR, Fellow PRSA
Margaret Ritsch, APR, Fellow PRSA

Sage Award

Kathy Barbour, APR, Fellow PRSA
Mark Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA
Judy Wicks, APR, Fellow PRSA

Social Media

Andrew Corner, APR, Fellow PRSA
Susan Pollard, APR, Fellow PRSA

Special Projects

Sandra Brodnicki, APR, Fellow PRSA
Gigi Westerman, APR, Fellow PRSA

Strategic Communications

Dianne Danowski-Smith, APR, Fellow PRSA
Janelle Guthrie, APR, Fellow PRSA

Strategic Planning

Kelly Davis, APR, Fellow PRSA
Clare Wade, APR, Fellow PRSA

Welcome from the 2023 College of Fellows Chair

Several of my predecessors have told me that one of the most satisfying moments as Chair of the College has been making telephone calls to successful applicants, breaking the news of their selection to the College for the very first time.

Do you remember the day you received that call? On a hot July afternoon in 2017, I was in my car, driving along Oakland Park Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale, when Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA, reached me. I had to pull over, but remember virtually every word!

Fast forward to just a few weeks ago, College Chair-elect and Selection Committee Chair Philip Poole, APR, Fellow PRSA, and I had the pleasure of making similar calls to 19 new Fellows, who we will be formally inducting tonight.

It was a thrill sharing that exciting news with each of our inductees, but I'm honestly even more excited to meet them and celebrate their accomplishments in person. Oh, and present them with that very special medallion.

Each of you knows the application process is rigorous and thorough. After weeks of reading their resumes, letters of recommendation, and case studies; learning about the impact each has had in their communities and on our profession; and speaking with their colleagues, friends, and other references, it's easy to feel as though we know each of the new Fellows already.

But, we don't! Not really. That's where the most exciting new chapter begins, as we get the opportunities to get to know one another to build professional and personal relationships, as we advance public relations, mentor students and aspiring young professionals, and leverage our skills for the good of our communities, big and small.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023. This is just the beginning of a new chapter for each of you and we're so proud to be a part of your stories. I'm glad I still had the opportunity to make "the call," but nothing can beat the thrill of sharing this evening with each of you.



J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow, PRSA

2023 Chair, PRSA College of Fellows

Congratulations to this year's College of Fellows inductees!



2023 College of Fellows Inductees

Montrie Rucker Adams, APR, Fellow PRSA

Chief Visibility Officer | Visibility Marketing Inc.



Montrie Rucker Adams is an award-winning communication strategist who helps her clients increase visibility and reach audiences through creative vision, boundless energy, and effective campaigns. For her, the glass is always half full, which keeps her focused on generating desired results. A lifetime learner and gifted writer, she composes content that inspires, encourages, and influences readers to act.

Montrie is considered a community connector, leveraging relationships and networking to build partnerships that bring diverse individuals and groups together. She consistently helps others recognize their value and enjoys mentoring young professionals. Her enthusiasm for travel helped her appreciate others' uniqueness and differences in thought, values, and experiences.

Montrie has served on various education, business, and community-related boards. In 2021 she received PRSA Cleveland Chapter's Lighthouse Award for career accomplishments and community service. The chapter also recognized her efforts to raise the chapter's bar on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

PRESENTED BY: Julie B. Fix, APR, Fellow PRSA

President/Principal | Fix & Associates, Inc. Public Relations

Kelliann Amico, APR, Fellow PRSA

Director of Everything Amico/President | Amico



From the earliest days of her career, Kelliann Amico has been committed to public relations and its ability to contribute to society's greater good. One of her first projects was leading a public service campaign to shed light on her home city's newest and growing homeless population: women and children. Her work and volunteerism have helped bring visibility to diversity, equity, and inclusion; AIDS prevention; breast cancer; heart health; women's empowerment in India; special education advocacy; child abuse prevention; social determinants of health; and global climate resilience.

Kelliann is a two-time PRSA Silver Anvil Award winner and a recipient of a Bronze Anvil Award, along with numerous awards from her local PRSA chapter and other marketing and community organizations. Through it all, Kelliann's most personal and proudest achievement is as mom to her neurodiverse son who graduated from high school in June and enrolled in college this fall.

PRESENTED BY: Dianne Danowski Smith, APR, Fellow PRSA

President | Publix NW

Jenny Barker, APR, Fellow PRSA

Principal | Gray Owl Strategy



Jenny Barker has spent her career leveraging her passion for continuous improvement to help organizations and individuals ensure their actions align with their mission, vision, and values.

She leads by example through her commitment to lifelong learning and service. Jenny achieved the Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) certification at age 25 and is a champion for advancing the PR profession. In her 22 years of practice, she has mentored hundreds of young professionals and dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to helping Nashville's nonprofit community thrive.

Jenny personifies servant leadership, and her collaborative approach and results-focused thinking have helped raise the standards and increase the effectiveness of countless organizations, from startups to large publicly traded companies. She is a skilled change communicator and crisis manager who thrives under pressure. Her caring spirit and quiet excellence continue to have a ripple effect on the lives of those she has worked with and mentored.

PRESENTED BY: Greg Bailey, APR, Fellow PRSA

Principal | Finley + Bailey Strategic Communications

Jennifer Regen Bisbee, APR, Fellow PRSA

President/Chief Consultant | Bisbee and Company



Jennifer Regen Bisbee is an award-winning public relations professional with four decades of experience serving globally recognized brands, industry-leading organizations, and entrepreneurial startups. She is founder and president of Bisbee and Company, Inc., an Orlando-based PR and integrated marketing communications firm with national capabilities.

Jennifer pioneered one of the nation's first virtual agencies 28 years ago. A 35-year Central Florida resident, she is a nationally accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America and a past president of the Orlando chapter, as well as an active volunteer for many non-profit organizations. Jennifer is passionate about giving back to the profession; she has helped countless colleagues and students launch consultancies and careers. She is also a filmmaker and is currently producing a full-length feature documentary about the power of human connection in the digital age. A Northwestern University graduate, Jennifer's proudest accomplishment is raising two thriving adults.

Carolyn Smith Casertano, APR, Fellow PRSA

Assistant Professor of Practice | University of Arizona



Carolyn Smith Casertano is an award-winning public relations professional with over 25 years of experience. She has worked for clients within the non-profit, corporate, and agency sectors, and owns CC Communications, LLC, specializing in issues management and crisis communication. She is an assistant professor of practice in the Department of Communication at the University of Arizona and serves as the faculty adviser for its Public Relations Student Society of America chapter.

A past president of the Southern Arizona Chapter of PRSA, Carolyn was named the 2020 Public Relations Professional of the Year. In 2022 she received the Public Relations Society of America Western District Platinum Service Award. Carolyn serves as a regional representative for PRSA, and on the communications committee for the Educators Academy. She is passionate about helping lead the next generation of public relations professionals, with a focus on ethics and DEI.

PRESENTED BY: Alison Gauden, APR, Fellow PRSA

Senior Lecturer of Public Relations/Advertising, Reynolds School of Journalism
University of Nevada Reno

Jacque Coe, APR, Fellow PRSA

Principal | Jacque Coe Communications



Jacque Coe has improved the communications and public trust of the most high-profile and challenged public agencies in the Pacific Northwest. She has led national accreditation awareness, chapter reforms, and learning programs and created opportunities for countless professionals.

Through her passion for the profession, Jacque has applied skill, focus, commitment, and a wicked sense of humor to achieve results. From overhauling communications divisions rife with toxicity and issues, leading district communications in the Northwest's largest teacher strike, or introducing policy change to open opportunities for others, Jacque's career is marked by challenge, strategy, courage, and leadership. Known for her networking abilities, Jacque has sought to use her social capital to create prospects for current and future professionals to strengthen the profession. She is most proud of taking on difficult roles and issues to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, PRSA, and the profession.

PRESENTED BY: Jane Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA

Owner/President | JDK & Company, Inc.

Marcia DiStaso, APR, Fellow PRSA

Associate Dean of Research | University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications



Marcia DiStaso is the associate dean for research in the College of Journalism and Communications and a professor of public relations at the University of Florida. She is an award-winning scholar, teacher, and administrator who stays well connected to the profession.

As a pracademic, Marcia conducts research that is influenced by and informs the profession. Over the years, her research has primarily focused on social media and financial communication, but much of her current work is about purpose. This research earned her the 2021 Institute for Public Relations Pathfinder Award. As

PRSA's 2016 Educator of the Year and a 2020 PRNEWS Top Women in PR recipient, Marcia works hard to prepare her students for the job market; she even led a student campaign to win a Silver Anvil Award of Excellence. Plus, under her leadership, the UF PR Department won the 2023 PRWeek Outstanding Education Program. Go Gators!

PRESENTED BY: Mickey Nail, APR, Fellow PRSA

Professional-in-Residence | University of Florida

Christie L. Goodman, APR, Fellow PRSA

Director of Communications | IDRA



Christie Goodman serves as director of communications at IDRA, a national education equity and civil rights non-profit that is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Previously, she worked with two non-profit interreligious organizations on Capitol Hill, where she led communications and served as associate editor of a national magazine.

A multiple recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award, she has been a long-time leader of two Girl Scout troops and a board member of March of Dimes San Antonio, among other volunteer roles. She served on the PRSA San Antonio board of directors

for almost two decades, including serving as chapter president. She designed and led the chapter's PR Insights series of seminars and launched its awards program. A Texas Tech graduate, Christie has written numerous articles and led presentations on effective communications, use of social media and podcasting, and social justice.

PRESENTED BY: Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA

President | Philip Tate Strategic Communications, LLC

David W. Honchul, APR, Fellow PRSA

Public Affairs Specialist | U.S. Department of Treasury



David W. "Dave" Honchul distinguished himself as a superior performer, outstanding role model, and exemplary mentor during a 34-year military career. Enlisting in the Air Force, he earned a commission as an officer and consistently took on challenging jobs despite being junior in rank for the positions. His historic effort to have the American Forces Network declared an "operational necessity" epitomizes his impact on advancing and preserving public affairs programs.

Dave's operational focus balanced commanders' interests with the requirements in dynamic information environments. He led the way through numerous crises ranging from sensitive legal cases to 9/11. Throughout his eight leadership positions at various commands, he fostered the growth and development of those around him while ensuring public relations' seat at the table influenced decision making. Dave's outstanding performance earned him the respect of leaders and colleagues, traits he continues while serving the nation in the U.S. Treasury Department.

Meredith Libbey, APR, Fellow PRSA

Communications | Ford Motor Credit



Meredith Libbey's proudest moments in her career have been when she created welcoming places for diverse people, protected reputations against unjust accusations, and mentored others. She has preserved careers threatened by falsehoods, reassured anxious families, supported embattled not-for-profits, and helped colleagues navigate changes that upended their personal and professional lives.

Meredith has a voracious appetite for learning, is a champion for accreditation at every career stage, and is a passionate advocate for ethical public relations practice.

Her career includes work in the banking, education, and automotive fields, and stints in research, training and advertising. When she took her first job in public relations, she knew she had found her calling.

PRESENTED BY: Stacy Smith, APR, Fellow PRSA

Owner | Strategic Public Relations

Joyce Lofstrom, M.S., APR, Fellow PRSA

Owner/Principal | Joyce Lofstrom & Associates



Throughout her career, Joyce Lofstrom has always relied on ethical public relations standards and practices for nonprofit and corporate organizations in the food, nutrition, and digital health technology sectors. She has guided staff, clients, and students during her career of 40+ years in Kansas City, Missouri, Denver, and Chicago.

Joyce's leadership positions in PRSA include service on the National Board of Directors and chair and twice conference co-chair of the Health Academy. She is also a member of the Independent Practitioners Alliance and the Board of Ethics and

Professional Standards. As a champion of the APR, she has guided candidates in their pursuit of the Accreditation credential. Her commitment to public relations continues with her own PR consulting business and the Max Mallory Foundation. Joyce has been honored for her work in PR, recognition consistent with her personal brand of credibility, integrity, and trustworthiness in the PR community.

PRESENTED BY: Janelle Guthrie, APR, Fellow PRSA

Communications Director | Building Industry Association of Washington

Mark Mohammadpour, APR, Fellow PRSA

Founder and Chief Well-Being Officer | Chasing the Sun



Mark Mohammadpour is a public relations executive turned well-being champion for the PR industry. At Edelman and Weber Shandwick, Mark led campaigns for more than 10 global technology brands and a branch of the United States military. He served as PRSA Oregon president in 2016, received the PRSA Oregon Olga. M. Haley Mentorship Award in 2020, and is the Workplace Wellness columnist for PRSA's Strategies & Tactics.

Today, Mark is the founder and chief well-being officer at Chasing the Sun. After losing and keeping off 150 pounds over the last decade, he founded Chasing the Sun to empower PR professionals to prioritize their well-being so they can shine in the family room and the board room. Through consulting, workshops, and keynote speeches, Mark has worked with more than 10,000 PR professionals on relatable, practical, and actionable approaches to prioritize their holistic well-being.

PRESENTED BY: Clare Wade, APR, Fellow PRSA

Executive Committee | PRSA Health Academy

Lori M. Quiller, APR, Fellow PRSA

Associate | Booz Allen Hamilton



Lori M. Quiller is an associate for Booz Allen Hamilton on contract as the outreach division lead for the Air Force Culture and Language Center at Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Additionally, she is the vice president of accreditation for the Public Relations Council of Alabama State and Montgomery chapters. During her career, Lori has served in various positions on these boards and the Southern Public Relations Federation.

She has received numerous awards for her work, including several APEX Awards for Publication Excellence, Air War College 2022 Team of the Year, and the 2017-2018 PRCA Philip R. Forrest Award for Lifetime Achievement. While many of her campaigns have incorporated high-ranking government officials and military leaders, Lori's most significant source of pride is her family, especially her parents – Chief Master Sgt. Roy Quiller (retired) and Sara Quiller.

PRESENTED BY: James Lukaszewski, APR, Fellow PRSA

America's Crisis Guru®

Raquel Rivera Torres, APR, Fellow PRSA

Corporate Communications Director | Grupo Ferré Rangel



Raquel Rivera Torres is a highly accomplished public relations professional with a distinguished career spanning almost three decades. She significantly contributes to public relations through her leadership, commitment to ethical values, and dedication to service.

She served as president of the Puerto Rico PR Professional Association and later became the president of the Public Relations Regulatory Board. She is a committed advocate for APR and PRSSA membership as well as all DEI initiatives in Puerto Rico, the U.S., the Caribbean, and Latin America.

Raquel's legacy is reflected professionally and through her volunteer work with NGOs such as Caribe Girl Scouts, Enactus, and her faith community. Her empathy towards the disadvantaged groups' needs is part of her strength, parallel to solutions and opportunities identification.

Raquel represents hope and opportunity as a young, determined Puerto Rican-Hispanic woman who leads by example, carries on building dynamic initiatives, and inspires creating strong footprints with solutions.

PRESENTED BY: Olga Mayoral Wilson, APR, Fellow PRSA

Strategic PR, Communications & Crisis Consultant | Texas State University (retired)

Frances A. Stephenson, APR, Fellow PRSA

Principal | Step In Communication



Fran Stephenson is principal of Step In Communication, a virtual boutique agency outside San Antonio, Texas. Previously, she spent 15 years in public relations for SeaWorld, working in all four of the parks' public relations departments, as well as managing Airship Shamu in the early 1990s.

Fran has been an active member in the San Antonio Chapter of PRSA since 2003, serving in numerous board and committee roles. She was named PR Professional of the Year in 2009 and the Tex Taylor Lifetime Achievement Award winner by the chapter in 2021. Fran was awarded a Silver Anvil for the 1988 Grand

Opening Campaign at SeaWorld of Texas. She also earned a Gold Adrian Award in 2015 and has received numerous local awards during her career. Fran holds a master's degree in communications studies from St. Mary's University and a bachelor's degree in consumer science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

PRESENTED BY: Geri Evans, APR, Fellow PRSA
CEO/President | Evans PR Group

Ann Marie Varga, APR, Fellow PRSA

Communications Manager | AdventHealth



Ann Marie Varga is a communications strategist with a broad range of experience in public relations. She has worked in agencies and corporations and as a consultant, and her experience spans a variety of industries, including academia, government, health care, tourism, and utilities. She has worked daily to fulfill her personal mission statement written more than 25 years ago — "To make a positive difference in the lives of others" — and her passion that "Life is for Service."

Throughout her notable career, Ann Marie has advanced communication functions, mentored students and young professionals, championed peers, and given back in countless ways. Considered a "connector" by her colleagues, her efforts have made a lasting impact on organizations as well as her community. Her talents and leadership, as well as her commitment to collaboration and knowledge management, continue to provide a road map for multiple organizations as they navigate today's fast-paced and ever-changing communication environment.

PRESENTED BY: Jamie Floer, APR, Fellow PRSA
Communications Manager | Toho Water Authority

Samantha Villegas, APR, Fellow PRSA

Chief Communications Officer | EPA Office of Water



For 30 years, Samantha Villegas has used the power of proactive and strategic public relations to protect and preserve our water, air, and land. Along the way, she has sought to amplify the voice and work of others, driven by the core belief that we achieve more working together. To that end, Sam has been a dedicated volunteer over the last 20 years, providing more than 500 hours of service to her local community, and more than a thousand hours to PRSA, serving as a committee member, a delegate, chapter president, national board member, and more.

In the water sector, Sam has been a driven advocate for communications, frequently speaking at conferences, authoring articles, and mentoring others. Today she is a trusted advisor to the leaderships and members of the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Federation, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators.

PRESENTED BY: Michelle Egan, APR, Fellow PRSA
Chief Communications Officer | Alyeska Pipeline
2023 Chair | PRSA

David Vossbrink, APR, Fellow PRSA

Principal | Communications Counsel



As a VISTA volunteer doing public relations for poverty neighborhoods in Florida at the start of his career, David Vossbrink discovered the powerful impact local governments have on quality of life. Over the following half century, he has served Bay Area cities and local agencies with creativity, integrity, and generosity to become a role model for public sector communicators.

David has managed high-level strategic communications, media relations, crisis communications, public policy, and community relations to earn and sustain public trust essential for effective government. He continues to provide strategic communications counsel for local governments and universities following his retirement from San Jose in 2017.

He has served as a long-term leader for PRSA Silicon Valley, which recognized him with its inaugural Legacy Award in 2019. The California Association of Public Information Officials presented David with the Paul B. Clark Award in 2002 for his career contributions to public sector communications.

Brandon Wilson, APR, Fellow PRSA

Chairman, President and CEO | Wilbron, Inc.



Brandon Wilson leads with urgency. He believes that public relations has the ability to change our world. Hence, he is committed to establishing institutions that accelerate generational impact. While at the Southern Poverty Law Center, Brandon championed the production of a documentary called *Mighty Times II: The Children's March* to inspire a new generation of leaders. That documentary aired on HBO and won an Academy Award. As a communications adviser to college presidents, Brandon created safer campuses for more than 1.5 million college students. As an advocate for equity, Brandon inspired the creation of Apollo Global

Management's \$100 million corporate foundation – Apollo Opportunity Foundation.

Brandon also encouraged Apple to build a \$100 million campus for innovation for historically Black colleges and universities. As a volunteer leader, Brandon's leadership resulted in the building of a new museum and visitors center in Birmingham, Alabama. This center was one of the sites for The World Games 2022 and welcomed 99 nations. His firm also is a 2023 Silver Anvil winner.

PRESENTED BY: Mark Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA

Executive Director/Executive Vice President | GOLIN

PRSA
COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

Congratulations!

HENNEN COMMUNICATION
CONGRATULATES THE
COLLEGE OF FELLOWS
CLASS OF 2023

Margaret Ann Hennen, APR, Fellow PRSA

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CHANGE OUR WORLD.

Nearly 20 years ago, Wilbron was founded with the hopes of helping to change our world.

Today, this idea joins other leaders who are also committed to making our world a better place.

We congratulate our founder, Brandon Wilson, on his induction into the College of Fellows.

FOR GOOD.

Yale Apple APOLLO INROADS



2023 Sage Award

Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA

Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA, is the 2023 recipient of the College of Fellows Sage Award, which honors a member of the College who has demonstrated a significant impact on the profession through mentoring and personal support of public relations professionals and members of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

President of Philip Tate Strategic Communications, LLC in Charlotte, North Carolina, Philip is a brand builder and strategic communicator with more than 35 years of experience in public relations, marketing, and advertising.

When he started working in the Ole Miss press box at age 13, Philip could not have imagined what would follow: While a student at Vanderbilt University, he ran media operations for the NCAA basketball tournament. He assumed the reins of Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine – the bible of football publications in the Lone Star State – when he was just 24 years old, and later became the youngest person ever to run the NCAA Final Four Basketball Tournament.

Those achievements were just the beginning of his distinguished career, which includes multiple Silver Anvil and ADDY Awards. Over the years, Philip has helped his high-profile clients achieve their business objectives and look good at the same time. And he does it all with compassion and a refined sense of humor.

Philip has devoted much of his volunteer time to PRSA. He is past chair of the PRSA College of Fellows and served two terms as treasurer on the PRSA national board of directors. He has also been an active leader with the PRSA Independent Practitioners Alliance and Counselors Academy, and as a member of the Board of Ethics and Professional Standards (BEPS).

Philip is a frequent guest speaker to communications classes and PRSSA chapters at several colleges and universities, and he has mentored many young and mid-career professionals over the years. He exemplifies the informal motto of the College to “Aspire Higher and Inspire Others.”

Congratulations, Philip, on this well-deserved honor!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: A College of Fellows Value

The College of Fellows (COF) is explicit in living its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) values and actively supports, invests in, and advocates for DEI-related initiatives for students, our members, and society at large. The commitment to DEI is done not only in accordance with PRSA's and the COF's DEI strategic plans, but also for the populations that we serve.

At the COF, we define Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as the fundamental dignity and worth of the individual and respect for human rights, cardinal virtues of our members and profession.

Our leadership ensures attention and sensitivity to issues of DEI, including our support of and endorsement to increase the diversity base of PRSSA chapters, support and promote our mentoring program, establish and support scholarships, and other initiatives.

All COF activities are evaluated through the DEI lens, including diversity of thought, backgrounds, industries, and experiences that are part of the selection of new COF members.

Each year, the COF sees an increased number of Fellows who act, live, and emphasize local, state, and national initiatives that engage and benefit diverse populations. Through our work, whether in a volunteer or professional capacity, we best portray the strength and diversity of the College. By embedding DEI in everything we do, we'll become better individuals – better in our work and better able to serve society.

But the work is not over. Our leadership will continue to advance DEI across the College and increasingly foster equity, fairness, accessibility, openness, and inclusion for all our Fellows. Because DEI is the right thing to do.



2023 PRSA Gold Anvil

**Gary D. McCormick,
APR, Fellow PRSA**

Principal | GMc Communications, LLC

The Gold Anvil, PRSA's highest individual award, honors a PRSA member with at least 20 years of experience whose accomplishments have made a significant contribution to the profession. It is considered PRSA's lifetime achievement award.

Gary D. McCormick, APR, Fellow PRSA, the 2023 Gold Anvil recipient, exemplifies the qualities of a Gold Anvil honoree and is richly deserving of this award. He is a consummate professional and gentleman, one who has served PRSA, its members, and our profession in many ways over decades, always with great insight, leadership, and grace.

Inducted into the College of Fellows in 2006, Gary also served as president of the PRSA Foundation in 2006 and 2007. In 2010 he led PRSA as national chair and CEO. For 14 years, he served on the national board of advisors for The Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations at The University of Alabama. Since 2003 Gary has been co-chair of the Champions for PRSSA, carrying on the tradition of the late Betsy Plank of bringing together those who have special interest in PRSSA and supporting its student members and public relations education.

Gary was recognized for his contributions to public relations education as the recipient of the Patrick Jackson Award for Distinguished Service to PRSA in 2015 and the 2006 recipient of the PRSA Educators Academy's David Ferguson Award. In 2011, he was inducted into the inaugural class of his alma mater's Hall of Fame in Journalism and Public Relations at Colorado State University.

His professional experience is vast. Following more than three decades of experience creating award-winning campaigns for corporate, nonprofit, and government clients, Gary formed GMc Communications in 2016. Prior to that he was director of corporate communications for Scripps Networks Interactive and director of public relations for DIY Network and Fine Living TV Network. Gary joined Scripps Networks after 17 years pioneering public participation programs in support of multiple federal government clients. He developed and managed the government's largest communications programs for such technical and controversial programs as chemical weapons disposal and storage of high-level nuclear waste. His experience also includes work for two nationally recognized public relations firms, as well as work in radio, television, and print media.

Congratulations, Gary, and thank you for sharing your talents and time with us!



*Congratulations
Gary McCormick*

Congratulations Gary on receiving the Gold Anvil Award! You are truly a champion for students. Thank you for all of your tireless work in developing the future leaders of our society and profession. You are an inspiration to us all, and we are honored to call you one of our own.

FROM THE 2023 CHAMPIONS FOR PRSSA



The Plank Center
FOR LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

— CONGRATULATES —

Gary McCormick
ON RECEIVING THE GOLD ANVIL



We are proud that as a former board member, Gary continues to honor Betsy's legacy and our mission to empower and advance the next generation of emerging leaders.

plankcenter.ua.edu
[@plankcenterpr](https://twitter.com/plankcenterpr)

PIONEERING FOR A BETTER FUTURE BEGINS WITH DIVERSE LEADERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2023 PRSA College of Fellows

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FOR A SAFER WORLD®

Gold Anvil Award marks **75** years

Celebrating more than 75 years of history is an exciting and significant moment for any organization. It is especially so for PRSA as we reflect on the journey of the profession and the professionals who founded, nurtured, and envisioned a community of peers and professional colleagues lifting one another and the profession to greater heights. PRSA, from its earliest days, was focused on advancing the public relations profession and its practitioners. It has always been about more than recognition. It has been about the ethical practice of strategic communications to drive change for the betterment of individuals, their businesses, and organizations, governments, and our greater society.

One important milestone in PRSA's history was the establishment and awarding of The Gold Anvil, the society's highest individual award. It is considered to be the PRSA lifetime achievement award and is presented to a public relations practitioner who is a PRSA member in good standing with a minimum of 20 years of experience and whose accomplishments have made a major contribution to the profession.

Since 1948 Gold Anvil Award recipients have represented the history, legacy, and professional practice of public relations reaching back for most of the 20th and all of the 21st centuries.

The first Gold Anvil Award was awarded to W. Howard Chase, APR, Fellow PRSA in 1948. While the award is not necessarily given each year by the PRSA National Board, in the past there were some years with multiple winners. The list of recipients reads like a who's who of public relations history and PRSA accomplishments under the leadership of industry stalwarts and legends recognized. Visionaries such as Pendleton Dudley (1955), Edward L. Bernays (1976), Pat Jackson (1986), and David Ferguson (1990) received Gold Anvils. Global public relations agency founders Harold Burson (1980), Al Golin (2005), and Dan Edelman (1999) have received the coveted award. Betsy Plank (1977) was the first female recipient and Ofield Dukes (2001) the first African American honoree. Some Gold Anvil milestones include recipients from public relations educators, such as one author of the seminal text on public relations principles, Scott Cutlip (1995), and legendary professional turned educator J. Carroll Bateman (1975), a name forever linked to the world's largest student campaign competition undertaken each year by PRSSA.

A total of 31 past PRSA presidents/chairs have received the honor of the Gold Anvil. Since 1992, Gold Anvil recipients are granted the honorific "Fellow PRSA" if they are not already Fellows, signifying the standards for admission into the College certainly qualify for Gold Anvil status.

Congratulations to all Gold Anvil honorees, representing the highest achievements, standards, and ethics in our profession and service to PRSA!

Congratulations ANTHONY D'ANGELO



Patrick Jackson Award for Distinguished Service to PRSA

★ ————— 2023 Award Recipient ————— ★

This an incredible honor and is a direct reflection of your
commitment to the profession at the highest level.



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2023 Patrick Jackson Award for Distinguished Service to PRSA

Anthony D'Angelo, APR, Fellow PRSA


The Patrick Jackson Award for Distinguished Service to PRSA recognizes an experienced PRSA member who has significantly advanced PRSA by working to support chapters, districts, and the national organization and has inspired fellow practitioners, professionally and personally.

The 2023 recipient, Anthony D'Angelo, APR, Fellow PRSA, has spent decades as a PRSA leader and is widely recognized as an individual with tremendous knowledge of the society and outstanding experience in the fields of public relations and PR education, all of which he is always willing to share. He is often called upon by national media and industry publications to provide his perspective on significant issues impacting our profession and is a regular contributor to The Wall Street Journal's "Crisis of the Week" column.

Tony was elected to the College of Fellows in 2008 and served on its executive committee from 2011 to 2015, including as chair in 2014. He also served on PRSA's National Board of Directors as the Northeast District director from 2004 to 2006 and as treasurer in 2007; he led the PRSA board as chair in 2018. Tony continues to be a very active volunteer, serving on and leading several PRSA committees, special task forces, and special projects. Notably, Tony served as editor-in-chief of "75 Years of Impact and Influence: People, Places and Moments in Public Relations History," a commemorative book that marked PRSA 75th anniversary in 2022.

After serving in the private sector for many years as senior communications manager for IT Corporation, director of operations for the St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center Foundation, director of communications for Magna International, and director of global marketing communications manager at Carrier Corporation, he joined the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, where he had been an adjunct professor, full time as a professor of practice in public relations in 2015. In July 2023, Tony began his role as academic coordinator for an executive master's degree program in communications management and interim chair at the Newhouse School.

Congratulations, Tony, and thank you for your leadership!



Today, the Certificate.
Tomorrow, the APR.
Then maybe someday,
Fellow PRSA

You can encourage a promising career...

Tonight, the College of Fellows is pleased to formally introduce the Certificate in Principles of Public Relations Scholarship Fund with the PRSA Foundation.

Envisioned by 2021 Chair Greg Bailey, APR, Fellow PRSA, the fund is dedicated to assisting students and young professionals pursuing the Certificate in Principles of Public Relations, as the first step in a career path toward the APR and beyond.

Your tax-deductible gift of just \$200 will underwrite the full cost of the program for one student. Donations of any amount will go toward building the fund for future candidates.

As you consider your year-end giving, remember the Certificate in Principles of Public Relations Scholarship Fund and the opportunity to invest in future generations of public relations leaders.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, scan here:



Congratulations, Fellows Class of 2023!

As we celebrate your accomplishments and contributions tonight, you can take pride in knowing that our profession has never been more appreciated or more in demand by the constituents it serves.

Yet it has never faced more challenges, including the overarching need for well-educated and well-trained talent. The Commission on Public Relations Education (CPRE) is unique in its role as the critically important pipeline between education and industry. We take pride in counting the PRSA College of Fellows as one of our 24 member organizations building that pipeline.

In 2023, the Commission is celebrating its 50th anniversary, consistent with the vision of early public relations education advocates J. Carroll Bateman, Dr. Scott Cutlip, and Betsy Ann Plank, but mindful of the accelerated pace of the public relations industry and the need to address current and future challenges through educating new professionals.

A significant contribution of this anniversary year will take place in Chicago on November 3, 2023 as we roll out of the latest in Commission studies, Navigating Change: Recommendations for Advancing Undergraduate Public Relations Education: The 50th Anniversary CPRE Report, with its goals to deliver these recommendations to key audiences, including educators, university deans/program directors, decision-makers among the various accrediting bodies, and practitioners who hire and mentor those degreed individuals. Please learn how you can help shape the future at commissiononpred.org.

In the meantime, Fellows, celebrate!

For the Commission,
2023 Co-Chairs

Maria P. Russell, APR, Fellow PRSA and Nance Larsen, APR, Fellow PRSA

Recognizing Members on their induction into the College of Fellows

Class of 2018 | 5th Anniversary

Denise Blackburn-Gay, APR, Fellow PRSA	Mark W. McClennan, APR, Fellow PRSA
Katie Coates, APR, Fellow PRSA	Timothy S. Penning, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA
Myra S. Cocca, APR, Fellow PRSA	Philip Poole, APR, Fellow PRSA
Daniel R. Dunne, APR, Fellow PRSA	Stacy A. Smith, APR, Fellow PRSA
Jennifer Grizzle, APR, Fellow PRSA	Brian S. Terrett, APR, Fellow PRSA
Suzanne Hartman, APR, Fellow PRSA	

Class of 2013 | 10th Anniversary

Kristie Aylett, APR, Fellow PRSA	Susan Hart, APR, Fellow PRSA
Vicki Bagwell*, APR, Fellow PRSA	Betsy Hays, APR, Fellow PRSA
Brook DeWalt, APR+M, Fellow PRSA	William Jasso, APR, Fellow PRSA
Kathleen Donohue Rennie, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA	Chris Lynch, APR, Fellow PRSA
Mark Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA	Chad Perry, APR, Fellow PRSA
Mary Eaddy, APR, Fellow PRSA	Douglas Spong, APR, Fellow PRSA
Janet Hart, APR, Fellow PRSA	Gigi Westerman, APR, Fellow PRSA

Class of 2003 | 20th Anniversary

Frederick Bagg, APR, Fellow PRSA	Elaine Nathanson, APR, Fellow PRSA
Gail Baker, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA	Mary Phelan, APR, Fellow PRSA
Mary Deming Barber, APR, Fellow PRSA	Robert Ristino, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA
Michael Furtney, APR, Fellow PRSA	Laurie Sherman, APR, Fellow PRSA
Gene Hall, APR, Fellow PRSA	Donna Stein, APR, Fellow PRSA
Sandra Knoesel, APR, Fellow PRSA	Joseph Trahan III, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA
Devere Logan, APR, Fellow PRSA	J. Lindsey Wolf*, APR, Fellow PRSA
Donald Miles, APR+M, Fellow PRSA	Nancy Wood, APR, Fellow PRSA

*Deceased

CONGRATULATIONS

to this year's College of Fellows inductees. We thank you for all you're doing to make the workplace and industry better through the power of effective communication.

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Congratulations



MARCIA DISTASO

**PUBLIC RELATIONS PROFESSOR
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH**

on your induction into the

PRSA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

2023 Selection Committee

- Philip Poole, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Chair*
- J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Greg Bailey, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Ronele Dotson, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Clark Dumont, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Julie Fix, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Karen Frashier, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Margaret Ann Hennen, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Lisa Lochridge, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Lori Marble, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Renea Morris, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Jo Ann LeSage Nelson, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Chris Payne, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Paula Pedene, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Judy Phair, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Diane Slaughter, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Jaron Terry, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Pamela Thompson, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Ana Toro, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Susan Walton, APR, Fellow PRSA

2023 Induction Committee

- Ronele Dotson, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Chair*
- J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Greg Bailey, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Andrew Corner, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Bill Gay, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Elyse Hammett, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Margaret Ann Hennen, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Checky Herrington, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Suzanne Holroyd, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Jo Ann LeSage Nelson, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Paula Pedene, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Susan Pollard, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Philip Poole, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Tracy Schario, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Ana Toro, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Kevin Waetke, APR, Fellow PRSA

Sage Award Committee

- Kathy Barbour, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Co-Chair*
- Mark Dvorak, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Co-Chair*
- Judy Wicks, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Co-Chair*

GoodFellows Committee

- Jamie Floer, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Co-Chair*
- Jennifer Grizzle, APR, Fellow PRSA, *Co-Chair*
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- Ellen Averill, APR, Fellow PRSA
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- Andrew Corner, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Gerry Corbett, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Kelly Davis, APR, Fellow PRSA
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- Lauren Green-Caldwell, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Janelle Guthrie, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Suzanne Hartman, APR, Fellow PRSA
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- Mark McClellan, APR, Fellow PRSA
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- Barbara Paynter, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Elizabeth Peci, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Debra Peterson, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Susan Pollard, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Robert "Pritch" Pritchard, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Sally Ridenour, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Gail Rymer, APR, Fellow PRSA
- William Swanger, APR, Fellow PRSA
- Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA
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In honor of Anthony D'Angelo, APR, Fellow PRSA



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GOLD

2023 Champions for PRSSA
In honor of Gary McCormick, APR, Fellow PRSA
Ronele M. Dotson, APR, Fellow PRSA
Margaret Ann Hennen, APR, Fellow PRSA
Olga Mayoral-Wilson, APR, Fellow PRSA
In honor of Raquel Rivera Torres, APR, Fellow PRSA
The Plank Center
In honor of Gary McCormick, APR, Fellow PRSA

SILVER

PRSA Alabama Chapter
In honor of Lori Quiller, APR, Fellow PRSA and Brandon Wilson, APR, Fellow PRSA
IDRA
In honor of Christie Goodman, APR, Fellow PRSA
Shellyn and Philip Poole, APR, Fellow PRSA
PRSA Board of Directors

BRONZE

Jacque Coe Communications and Jacque Coe, APR, Fellow PRSA
Gerard F. Corbett, APR, Fellow PRSA
Michelle Egan, APR, Fellow PRSA
Geri Evans, APR, Fellow PRSA
Congratulations and Welcome to three new Florida Fellows (Jennifer Regen Bisbee, APR, Fellow PRSA; Marcia DiStaso, APR, Fellow PRSA; and Ann Marie Varga, APR, Fellow PRSA) and a Special Texan (Fran Stephenson, APR, Fellow PRSA)
Fionix Consulting and Jessica Graham, APR, Fellow PRSA
Gary McCormick, APR, Fellow PRSA
PR Talent
In honor of Jacque Coe, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA CHAPTERS AND DISTRICTS

PRSA Central New York Chapter

In honor of Anthony D'Angelo, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA Cincinnati Chapter and PRSA East Central District

In honor of David Honchul, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA Nashville Chapter

In honor of Jenny Barker, APR, Fellow PRSA and Meredith Libbey, APR, Fellow PRSA

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In honor of Samantha Villegas, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA Northeast District

In honor of Anthony D'Angelo, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA North Pacific District

In honor of Kelliann Amico, APR, Fellow PRSA; Jacque Coe, APR, Fellow PRSA; and Mark Mohammadpour, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA San Antonio Chapter

In honor of Christie Goodman, APR, Fellow PRSA and Fran Stephenson, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA Southern Arizona Chapter

In honor of Carolyn Smith Casertano, APR, Fellow PRSA

PRSA Sunshine District

In honor of J.W. Arnold, APR, Fellow PRSA

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Anthony D'Angelo, APR, Fellow PRSA

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Jamie Floer, APR, Fellow PRSA

Tom Gable, APR, Fellow PRSA

Mickey Nall, APR, Fellow PRSA

Judith Phair, APR, Fellow PRSA

Philip Tate, APR, Fellow PRSA

Bravo, Meredith!

Your recent induction into the PRSA College of Fellows is an incredible accomplishment and speaks volumes about your experience, expertise and professional wisdom.

All of us at Ford Motor Company and Ford Credit are overjoyed to celebrate this honor and are thankful to collaborate with you regularly.



Raquel Rivera Torres, APR, Fellow PRSA

Corporate Communications Director
Grupo Ferré Rangel, San Juan, Puerto Rico



...because you embody competence, character, confidence, connection and compassion. Congratulations!

Con orgullo y alegría, Your Fellow Fellow, colleague, mentor and friend,

Olga Mayoral Wilson, APR, Fellow PRSA





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