



September-October 2017

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ACI Scholars

Madelyn Patten University of St. Francis



Madelyn Patten has a plan: She wants to open her own hair salon someday. She already has a cosmetology license, plus experience working in a hair salon. Combining her background with a major in entrepreneurship at the [University of St. Francis](#) (USF) is how she plans to achieve her dream. An ACI Call One Scholarship, along with other scholarships she earned, made it possible for Patten to remain in school this fall after a rough financial period for her family. "The ACI scholarship helped a lot," she says.

Patten, from tiny Gardner, Illinois, developed an interest in cosmetology in junior high school, where the subject was part of a vocational center's class offerings. In high school, she placed second in a national cosmetology competition through Skills USA, where participants are tested in four subject areas. Later, she says she "got her foot in the door" as a receptionist intern at a hair salon near her home. This past summer, she worked at the same salon with her own hair clients. "I love cosmetology. Once I started doing it, I knew I would be doing it forever," she says.

In addition to cosmetology and entrepreneurship, Patten brought other interests with her to USF. She is a member of Alpha Phi Sorority. She also earned a scholarship for a new dance team program at USF this past year. Unfortunately, Patten suffered a hip injury while performing at football game last fall. After the school year ended this past May, Patten underwent surgery to repair her hip. She is looking forward to rejoining the dance team this fall as she begins her sophomore year, while continuing to learn about developing and managing her own business.

Already, Patten has learned some important lessons about owning a managing a business, thanks to a marketing class at University of St. Francis. For a project, she developed a plan for a hair salon. "It was a realistic view of how much work it takes to actually own your own salon because it got into the financial aspects. It made me think of a lot of things that go into owning your own business," Patten says.

Patten hasn't yet declared a minor, but she is taking at least three marketing classes this fall. "I love the customer-buyer relationship, and learning the wants and demands of a consumer. I like marketing, and I think going deeper will help me in owning my own salon," she says. In addition to the dance team, Patten is interested in the university's business club, and her academic adviser has also suggested a future internship with a hair products distributor.

She tells friends that her dance scholarship, plus a friendly atmosphere and small class sizes were among the factors in her decision to attend University of St. Francis. The discipline required to be successful in college has been good, too.

"Coming to college really showed me I had to study five to six hours a day," she says. "I had to put in a lot more work. That's what I told my friends – It's a lot more work than you would expect, but I like it."

Meet ACI Members

Knox College strong on academics, focused on modern teaching methods, experience

President Teresa L. Amott's multicultural experience fits well with Knox founding principle



[Dr. Teresa L. Amott](#) is the beneficiary of an unusual upbringing that shaped her life and molded the [Knox College](#) president into a strong advocate for first-generation and underrepresented students. Her experience was made possible because her father was a Foreign Service Officer of the United States, and her mother was Brazilian. As part of her father's U.S. State Department job, the Amott family lived in Bolivia, Japan, Peru, Honduras, Mexico, Portugal and Germany.

"The most important lesson of my life was having parents from two very different cultures," she says. Her father, John Crider Amott, was from the Midwest, born in Kansas and proud to represent the United States to the world. Her mother, Ruth Nascentes Coelho, was from Rio de Janeiro. They met during one of Amott's State Department postings.

"Living in a multicultural environment was exceptional preparation for today's global environment. I tell new students: 'You will learn the most from the people the least like you.' It is very gratifying to me when they repeat this back as a lesson they have learned," Amott says. Engaging with people whose life experience is different exposes a person to new ideas and helps shape a person's identity, she adds.

Amott's life experience is an excellent match for Knox College. A founding principle of the college in 1837 is to provide access to education for all students, regardless of financial means, gender or race. That principle tops Amott's description of Knox College. "To this day we are nationally recognized for our commitment to first-generation and underrepresented students, which connects to the ACI mission as well, and is why we're members of ACI," she says.

Read [more](#)

Did You Know?

Synergy Campus Security Services, an ACI Corporate Partner

Synergy Campus Security Services provides contract services for colleges and universities. With 25 years of security and law enforcement experience, its primary goals are to provide safe and well-protected campus environments, and to protect client properties and assets from hazards and crime.



Read [more](#)

ACI News

ACI hosting breakfast on workforce development and the liberal arts Nov. 2



ACI will host a complimentary breakfast Nov. 2, at the University Club of Chicago, focused on workforce development and the liberal arts. The event is designed for human resource, diversity and inclusion leaders from Illinois companies, together with career-services professionals from ACI colleges and universities.

"Our goal is to introduce ACI to attendees and offer ideas on recruiting diverse talent from ACI's 24 member colleges and universities," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director.

ACI will also brief attendees about the first ACI Career Fair, March 23, 2018, at North Central College, Naperville. Exclusively for ACI members and their students, the career fair aims to connect them with Illinois employers, as well as provide career information and tips for seeking jobs.

[President David J. Livingston](#) of ACI-member [Lewis University](#) will speak about ACI's mission. A program, "The Power of the Liberal Arts Students -- Leveraging Their Uniqueness" will be presented by Robyn Clark, managing partner and founder, [SuccessWise Consulting](#), and Doug Harris, CEO, [The Kaledioscope Group](#).

[Online registration](#) for the Nov. 2 breakfast is open. Deadline for RSVPs is Oct. 26. For additional information, contact Mick Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org or call 312-263-2391, ext. 0523.

Join us Nov. 3 in Chicago for ACI's professional development conference

ACI's next professional development conference for member college and university professionals is Nov. 3, in Chicago, at the corporate headquarters of Morningstar, a financial research firm. The conference sponsor is [BKD](#), LLP, an accounting and advisory firm based in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.



This event combines ACI's four professional development conferences into one event, with four tracks for staff working in advancement, finance, public relations and marketing, and student engagement, said Constance Willoughby, ACI director for scholarships and conferences.

Keynote speaker is [Dr. Bridget C. Coughlin](#), president and chief executive officer of the [Shedd Aquarium](#), a significant tourist attraction in Chicago and scientific organization dedicated to conservation of aquatic species and water resources. Coughlin is a graduate of [Knox College](#), Galesburg, one of 24 ACI colleges and universities.

[Online conference registration](#) is available through Oct. 27, and space is limited. There is no cost for ACI member staff and invited guests to attend.

Morningstar CEO headlines ACI Wealth Advisors Breakfast Dec. 6 in Chicago



Kunal Kapoor, director and chief executive officer for [Morningstar, Inc.](#), will headline ACI's second Wealth Advisors Breakfast Dec. 6, at the University Club of Chicago.

Kapoor, a graduate of ACI-member [Monmouth College](#), Monmouth, was named chief executive of the Chicago-based financial research firm in February 2017. Monmouth College [President Clarence R. Wyatt](#) will introduce Kapoor and speak about ACI's mission.

ACI held its first Wealth Advisors Breakfast in February 2017. The event seeks to introduce the advisors and estate planners to ACI's mission to raise funds for underserved students.

Complimentary registration for the Dec. 6 breakfast will open soon. For additional information, contact Mick Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org or call 312-263-2391, ext. 0523.

ACI's first career fair set for March 2018 at North Central College

Students at ACI member colleges and universities will benefit from an ACI Career Fair in 2018, thanks to a challenge grant from the [Council of Independent Colleges](#) (CIC), Washington, and the cooperation of [North Central College](#). Scheduled for March 23, 2018, at North Central's Naperville campus, ACI's Career Fair will introduce students to employers recruiting the class of 2018 and help them build skills necessary to conduct successful job searches, present themselves effectively to prospective employers and be more successful as future employees.



ACI's day-long career fair is expected to include an "employer expo," where students can present resumes to prospective employers, a sit-down luncheon convening students, employers and career-services professionals from ACI-member institutions, skill-building workshops and a networking lounge where students can connect with employers in an informal setting.

"This is an exciting new venture for ACI," says Mick Weltman, executive director. "With unemployment at the lowest levels in years, liberal arts graduates are in high demand, but students can feel overwhelmed by the complex job market. ACI's Career Fair is an opportunity for us to support the students we serve, while we build productive relationships with employers across the state."

ACI's Career Fair is funded by a National Venture Fund Challenge grant of \$21,750, awarded to ACI by CIC, and matched with a gift from the Shure Charitable Trust.

Employers can participate in ACI's Career Fair as sponsors, exhibit at the employer expo, and/or host the networking lounge. Participating employers will be invited to the luncheon. For additional information, contact Mick Weltman at mweltman@acifund.org or call 312-263-2391, ext. 0523.

ACI Distributes \$66,000 in Scholarship Funds to Members



Thanks to a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), Washington, through the [CIC/UPS Educational Endowment](#), ACI distributed \$66,000 in scholarship funds to member colleges and universities.

Nationally, CIC and the UPS Foundation provided more than \$1.5 million in student scholarships through state-based associations.

"We're pleased to provide these funds to support students at our 24 member colleges and universities," said Mick Weltman, ACI executive director. "The CIC/UPS scholarship program has been a significant partner with us for many years."

"Independent colleges and universities in this country are remarkably effective at educating and graduating low-income and first-generation students in less time, with less student debt," said Richard Ekman, president of CIC. "Helping these students afford a private-college education is a truly critical need in our society, and it is rewarding to be a partner with the UPS Foundation and ACI as we help to support deserving students."

The CIC/UPS Scholarship Program has made private college education possible for more than 20,000 low-income and first-generation students. The Atlanta-based UPS Foundation was established in 1951. In 2016, UPS and its employees, active and retired, invested more than \$116.6 million in charitable giving around the world.

"The UPS Foundation is honored to work with CIC to provide scholarships for students at independent colleges and universities," said Eduardo Martinez, president of the UPS Foundation and chief diversity and inclusion officer at UPS. "Our goal is to fund powerful programs that make a lasting difference to the global community."

New president appointed at Quincy University, interim named at North Park University

The board of trustees at ACI member [Quincy University](#), Quincy, appointed [Phil Conover](#), right, as the university's 23rd president at a special meeting Sept. 9. Conover had been serving as acting president since May 15, after the resignation of Dr. Robert Gervasi who left to become president of Ohio Dominican University.

Conover will serve as president through the 2018-19 academic year, and the board will continue its search for his successor. Conover has an extensive background in higher education including serving as a member and vice chair of Quincy's board and as interim vice president of instruction for John Wood Community College. He was also interim president of the Great River Economic Development Foundation.



Conover attended Illinois State University and graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in history and a Master of Arts in guidance and counseling.

[North Park University's](#) board of trustees appointed [Carl Balsam](#), left, as interim president, after Dr. David L. Parkyn retired after 11 years as president of the Chicago university. Balsam joined the university in 1988 and was executive vice president and chief financial officer before becoming interim president.

He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering science, Pennsylvania State University; Master of Divinity, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island. Balsam also serves on the board of directors for Covenant Trust Company.



The university's board expects to identify a permanent president next spring.

ACI welcomes three new corporate board members

Following approval by the ACI Executive Committee, three new corporate members joined the [ACI Board of Trustees](#) this summer.

Joining the board were Dr. William Carroll, left, founder and president of Hunter Global Education, LLC, and former president of Benedictine University, where he served for 20 years; Toni Cornelius, center, CEO of Tamarind Tree Consulting, with experience as an independent consultant and 30 years in corporate human resources and development; and Leslie A. Peltason, right, leader for University Relations and Morningstar Development Program, Morningstar, with experience in financial planning and analysis.



ACI's Board of Trustees now consists of 34 corporate members, plus presidents of ACI's 24 member colleges and universities.

Michael Best honored for its commitment to LGBTQ diversity



[Michael Best & Friedrich LLP](#), an ACI corporate partner, was recognized this summer among Illinois law firms for its commitment to LGBTQ diversity and inclusive practices in the 2017 "Raising the Bar" report from Equality Illinois for the third consecutive year.

"Michael Best is committed to cultivating an open and accepting environment that welcomes diversity and advocates for equality," said Jorge Leon, chair of Michael Best's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. "Our firm continues to recruit, retain and develop diverse talent, which provides us with the perspective to succeed and deliver outstanding results for the firm, our clients and the broader community."

Putting your tax-deductible ACI gift to work

Your personal gift to ACI can make a difference for Illinois students who seek a liberal arts education. Contributions help provide scholarships for underserved students attending ACI colleges and universities.

ACI serves more than 60,000 students attending 24 member colleges and universities in Illinois. Since its founding 65 years ago, the organization has provided more than \$70 million in scholarships to Illinois students, thanks to corporations, foundations and individuals. Your gift makes it possible for students to complete their college educations and enter the Illinois workforce ready to contribute and succeed.



To provide financial support for ACI scholarship and peer mentoring programs, please visit <https://acifund.org/giving/> or contact Mick Weltman, ACI executive director, at 312-263-2391 or mweltman@acifund.org.



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*Augustana College - Benedictine University - Blackburn College - Concordia University Chicago
Dominican University - Elmhurst College - Eureka College - Greenville University - Illinois College
Judson University - Knox College - Lewis University - McKendree University - Millikin University
Monmouth College - North Central College - North Park University - Olivet Nazarene University
Principia College - Quincy University - Rockford University - Trinity Christian College
University of St. Francis - Wheaton College*

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