

Profiles In Leadership

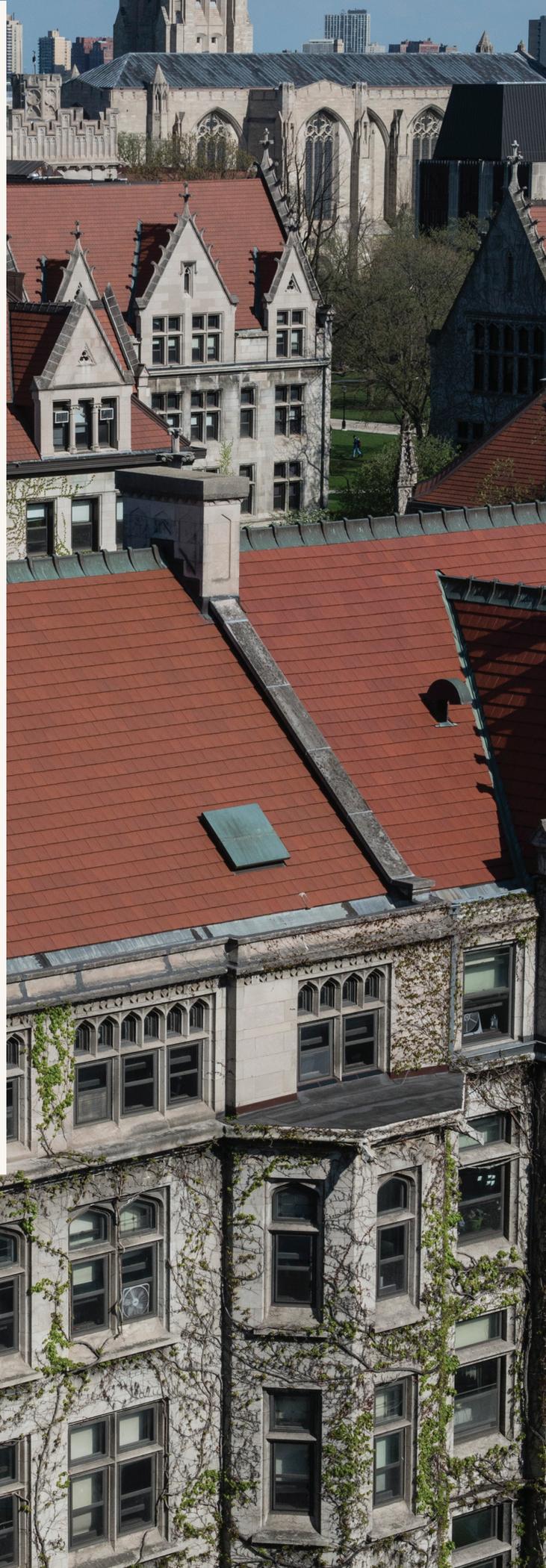


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The **Master of Liberal Arts (MLA)** is a degree for leaders who seek to expand their minds, sharpen their critical thinking, and gain confidence in solving complex challenges.

As part of the MLA's 30th Anniversary in 2022, we invited **12 current MLA students** to share their profiles of leadership and to describe how the MLA has guided their development.



Profiles in Leadership:

A SELECTION OF STUDENTS IN UCHICAGO'S MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

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Deep learning in Leadership and Ethics through the liberal arts lens is a dream come true for me as a student. The UChicago MLA program allows me to transfer my real-world experience in scaling startups to the realm of academic thought and beyond, all while being a part of an exciting learning community that challenges my current notions and helps me grow as an individual and executive.



Cara Brennan Allamano

Chief People Officer, Lattice
Human Resources, San Francisco

Cara Brennan Allamano has deep experience with scaling People operations, recruiting, and learning & development at fast-moving, global companies. She is currently Chief People Officer at Lattice, a triple-unicorn technology company built to drive employee success within businesses.

Most recently, she scaled EdTech company Udemy through multi-national expansion and their Initial Public Offering. Prior to joining Udemy, she was SVP of People at Planet Labs and previously served in HR leadership roles at Pinterest, Efficient Frontier, Young and Rubicam, and Knight Ridder, among others.

Cara is also co-founder of PeopleTech Partners, a group of HR leaders working to bring new HR/recruiting technologies to market. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Kentucky, holds a master's degree from the University of San Francisco, completed graduate studies at Stanford University and is finishing a second master's focused on Leadership and Ethics at the University of Chicago.

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As I grew in my consulting career, I realized that EQ becomes increasingly important over IQ as one assumes leadership responsibilities. The MLA program gives me a unique opportunity to get formal classroom training in the liberal arts, especially in the disciplines of classical philosophy and ethics that have helped me hone my leadership skills.



Kaushik Bhattacharya

Director, Data & Analytics, North Highland
Management Consulting, Greater New York City

Kaushik Bhattacharya is a management consultant with twenty years of experience in business analytics and artificial intelligence. He has led large transformation projects at industries like Insurance, Banking, Telecom, Manufacturing, Retail, Consumer Goods, Media, Life Sciences, Healthcare, Energy, Utilities and Government. He has also served as an adjunct faculty at the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, where he designed and taught a course on Digital Consulting to MBA students.

Kaushik earned an MBA from Cornell University, a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence from Queen Mary, University of London, and a

Bachelor of Science in Physics from St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business Analytics Program, offered jointly by three Harvard schools: Harvard Business School, the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Kaushik is a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the British Computer Society, and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Kaushik is currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts with a concentration in Ethics and Leadership at the University of Chicago.

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School has always been a happy place for me, and I had desperately wanted to study literature. The MLA program has made that possible and opened me up to a broader skillset. I have formed connections with students from all over the world, including Columbia, India, Australia, and China. I look forward to my class each week and can't wait to discuss the readings with my professor and peers.



Fatema Burhani

Mathematics Teacher, UChicago Laboratory Schools
Education, Chicago

It is Fatema's second year at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, and she taught for seven years before joining here. Previously she was an instructor at Northwestern University, the University of Pennsylvania, North Shore Country Day school, The Haverford School, and Beacon Academy, a Montessori International Baccalaureate school outside of Chicago.

Fatema earned a Master of Arts in Mathematics Education from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Mount Holyoke College. She also spent a year studying mathematics at the Budapest Semesters in

Mathematics and has a Certificate in Painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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Each deep conversation with my professors, each vivid discussion with my classmates, and each page of the books I read, help me to better articulate my worldview, understand what may have been holding me back previously, and paint a vivid picture of the future destinations that I want to explore.



Fabiola Delgado

Assistant Vice President for Finance and Chief of Staff for National Laboratories, University of Chicago
Higher Education, Chicago

As Assistant Vice President for Finance, Fabiola provides leadership for budgeting, accounting, and internal financial controls improvement for the units under the office of Science, Innovation, National Laboratories, and Global Initiatives. Building collaborative relationships with the finance and leadership teams, she provides guidance and resources to aid the units in the development of their respective strategic initiatives.

In her capacity as Chief of Staff for National Laboratories, she serves as a key advisor to the Executive Vice President for Science, Innovation, National Laboratories, and Global

Initiatives as she shapes and drives the National Laboratories' vision. She supports the design and execution of strategic initiatives and operational plans in support of Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories' mission, building strong partnerships with the Department of Energy and the National Laboratories leadership teams.

Fabi received her B.S. and CPA from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México with the highest honors and is a candidate for a Master of Liberal Arts with a concentration in Ethics and Leadership at the University of Chicago.

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I am sure the motivation to enroll at the Graham School differs from one student to the next. For me, my hope was that I would be exposed to new and challenging thought during my time there. It isn't just that my hope was realized—it is how the experience seems to have changed the way I think, listen, read, and write.



Mark Heaney

Chief Executive Officer, DTRT Health Acquisition Corp
Home Health Care, Chicago

Mark Heaney is Chief Executive Officer of DTRT Health Acquisition Corp and is Chairman of its Board of Directors.

Mark has enjoyed a forty plus year career in the delivery of home health services to the nation's at-risk elderly, non-elderly disabled and infants and children with significant health needs. Prior to co-founding DTRT Health, a publicly traded Special Purpose Acquisition Corporation, Mark spent 31 years at Addus HomeCare, also publicly held, the last nine years as its CEO and Board Chair. A regular presenter at industry conferences, Mark served for six years on the Board of Directors of the National Association

for HomeCare (NAHC), as well as having served on a number of national and state trade and advisory boards attempting to help bring about and shape a "home first" health policy. Mark has served on the Boards of several private equity backed health services and tech companies.

Mark has served on the Advisory Board for the Archdiocese of Chicago and today serves on the Board of Directors for TradeWinds Services addressing the needs of persons with disadvantages in Northwest Indiana.

Mark earned a BA in Speech Communications from Loyola University Chicago.

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I pursued an MLA because I wanted to satisfy my interest in asking tough questions in a structured yet flexible, and rigorous learning environment. The program more than met expectations. It taught me to ask better questions, dig deeper for answers, challenged me to consider perspectives outside my expertise, and connected me to a community of talented and curious individuals.



Sara Hope Marshall

Founder and Principal, Profound Hope Industries

Community Development & Social Impact Consulting, Chicago

Sarah is an accomplished speaker and experienced executive. She is a former credit union CEO and has spent almost two decades in various forms of community development work.

Sarah holds an MBA from North Park University, with a self-designed concentration in community development. Her professional resume includes work in financial services, technology, faith-based organizations, community organizing and social enterprise.

Sarah sits on the Illinois State Comptroller's BankOn Advisory Committee and on the Board of Directors for Chicago Artist's Guide. She

founded Profound Hope Industries, a social impact consulting agency to help socially focused organizations build or improve their business models for increased profitability and greater community impact.

Her clients include credit unions, small businesses, non-profits, and CDFIs. In 2021, she also founded Prosperous PKU, an online business dedicated to helping individuals understand the impact of their own stories in order to lead authentically and advocate for social change.

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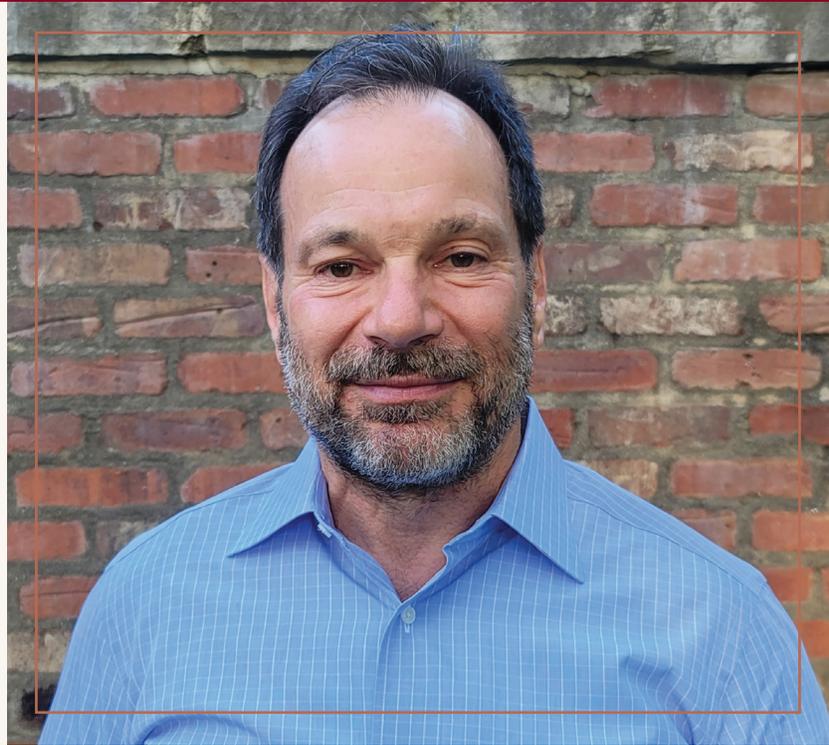
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I pursued the MLA because I was looking to satisfy my curiosity about a range of topics and complement my other interests and activities. In addition to achieving these objectives I appreciate the exposure I have received to a range of opinions and perspectives. I feel I am a better listener and have improved my critical reasoning skills as a result.



Kelly Martin

Senior Director, Investment Banking, William Blair & Company
Financial Services, Chicago

Kelly Martin is a Senior Director with William Blair & Company, having joined the firm in 1990.

Before moving to a Senior Director role in October 2020, Kelly was Partner and head of Leveraged Finance, Private Capital and Fixed Income Sales and Trading where he managed a range of financing businesses, including leveraged loan arrangement and advisory, high yield origination, private equity placements and sales and trading of investment grade debt, high yield bonds and preferred stock. In addition to managing these business units, Kelly also retained client advisory responsibilities providing a range of services

including M&A advisory and debt and equity financing services.

Prior to joining William Blair, Kelly began his financing career with Toronto Dominion Bank and American National Bank (JP Morgan Chase) where he provided financing to a broad range of corporate borrowers. Before beginning his career in finance Kelly spent four years with Boise Cascade Office Products.

Kelly earned an MBA from the University of Chicago (Booth), a Bachelor of Science with highest distinction from Penn State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Illinois University.

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As a midcareer professional whose role is increasingly focused upon leadership and management, I wanted to undertake further study and the MLA with its concentration in ethics and leadership was a perfect fit. I had always felt that I could enrich my life experience through further study in the social sciences and humanities. I have been rewarded so greatly in these areas through my MLA studies.



Joseph Monaghan

Partner, Holding Redlich Lawyers
Law, Melbourne

Joseph Monaghan is an attorney practicing in public law (predominantly planning and environmental law) in Melbourne, Australia. He is a partner at Holding Redlich, a leading national full service commercial Australian law firm, where he has practised for eight years, prior to which he practised at other well regarded law firms. Joseph has practised as an attorney throughout his professional career and is recognised in Best Lawyers for planning and environmental law.

He completed undergraduate degrees in environmental science and law (with honours) at La Trobe University. Whilst practising as an

attorney full time, he then completed further postgraduate studies at the Australian National University where he completed his Masters, and at La Trobe University where he completed his doctorate degree on water law.

Joseph is also an Accredited Specialist through the Law Institute of Victoria in both Planning and Environmental Law, as well as Administrative Law. Outside of work, Joseph is married and he and his wife have recently welcomed their first baby boy.

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The MLA has provided me with an unparalleled intellectual feast without requiring relocation that might interrupt my professional life. Waking up early in the morning here in Shanghai and immediately diving into the prescient geniuses of Weber or Kant, I am able to discover time-tested insights that help me think more clearly and make better decisions in this time of unpredictability.



Fei Ni

Chairman & CEO, Pingyuan App-Ark Education Education Consulting & Edtech, Shanghai

Fei Ni is the Chairman and CEO of Pingyuan App-Ark Education (App-Ark), a Shanghai-based education consulting and Edtech firm that services leading K-12 international schools and global-minded families.

Fei co-founded App-Ark in 2010 while he was a college freshman. Over the years, he has turned App-Ark from a humble dorm startup into one of the most renowned educational boutiques in Shanghai, employing around 100 full-time educators. Fei and his company have helped more than 15 international schools and nearly 2,000 families in areas like enterprise software design, recruitment planning, and college counseling.

Fei is a passionate advocate for educational reform. He has brought Western humanities and classical education to China to cultivate critical thinking and cultural awareness in the next generation of Chinese students. His is one of the only firms in Shanghai that can provide in-person instruction in both classical Greek and Latin.

Born and raised in Shanghai, Fei completed high school and college in the US. He earned his BA in History from Emory University in only five semesters, holding the record of graduating the fastest among Emory's international undergraduates.

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If you want your idea to win in today's fast paced, time-starved, and technology-driven workplaces, the ability to communicate and advocate your position coherently and concisely is a key differentiator. The MLA program helps you develop skills to better organize your thoughts, sharpen your points, and deliver a strong argument.



Brian O'Connor

Head of Embedded Banking, JP Morgan
Financial Services, New York City

Brian serves as the Head of Embedded Banking, a new industry solution that allows eCommerce firms to seamlessly integrate financial services for their clients. Over the past five years, Brian also held several senior Payments Technology roles focused on business-driven technology transformation in liquidity, real-time payments, and cross border payments.

Prior to his current role, Brian held senior Capital Markets roles with Deutsche Bank and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Brian spent the first half of his career at Chicago-based TransUnion in increasingly senior Technology

and Product roles focused on consumer credit, insurance, anti-fraud, and real estate lending.

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The MLA is a unique opportunity to challenge myself to think differently, explore new fields of study, and enrich my life by building robust intellectual relationships with colleagues and professors. The magic of this program is the way in which it teaches you, through rigorous study and debate, to become the most passionate and empowered version of yourself.



Natalie Schreyer

Freelance Journalist

Journalism, Washington, D.C.

Natalie Schreyer is a journalist whose work focuses on domestic violence survivors and the broken systems that fail them. Her writing has appeared in *Mother Jones*, *Ms. Magazine*, *USA Today*, *CNN.com*, *The Atlantic*, *Kaiser Health News*, and others. She is executive producer of the award-winning documentary film, *And So I Stayed*, which *The New York Times* praised as “a heartfelt window on domestic abuse.” She holds a Master of Arts degree in Journalism from American University and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Southern California.

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I have always had a passion for learning and a desire to challenge myself. The MLA program presented a way to enhance my skills—not only as an individual but also as a participant and leader in our society. The MLA attests to the fact that there is inherent value associated with studying the humanities and in developing a background and comfort with the diverse topics that comprise the liberal arts.



Andrew F. Schorr

Division Head, Pulmonary, Critical Care, & Respiratory Services, Medstar Washington Hospital Center; and Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University Healthcare, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Schorr currently serves as the Division Head, Pulmonary, Critical Care, & Respiratory Services, Medstar Washington Hospital Center, Washington DC, & as a Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington DC. In addition, he is the medical director for both the Medical Intensive Care Unit and for Respiratory Therapy.

He earned his undergraduate degree in Public Policy at Princeton University. He obtained his medical degree at the University of Virginia. He also holds an MPH from Johns Hopkins

University and an MBA from the University of Virginia. He completed his training in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Dr. Schorr is a fellow of both the American College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physician. His research focuses on issues related to severe pneumonia, health economics, and epidemiology. In addition to being a Fulbright Specialist, he has won multiple awards for his bedside teaching and his research.

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