

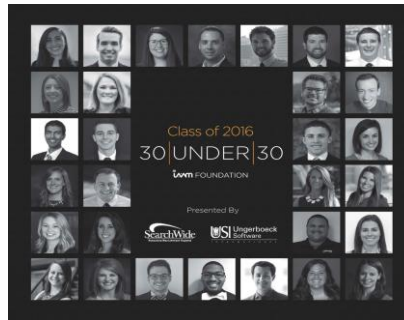


# Newsletter

Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Mexico

June 2016

## The IAVM Foundation is Proud to announce the 30|UNDER|30 Class of 2016



The International Association of Venue Managers Foundation (IAVMF) has selected the 2016 recipients for its 30|UNDER|30 program. This program is made possible thanks to co-founding program partners SearchWide and Ungerboeck Software Systems, along with IAVM Foundation donors.

As part of the Build an Amazing Future campaign focused on students, young professionals, and mid-level venue management, the 30|UNDER|30 program is designed to engage the best and brightest young professionals in the venue management industry by recognizing emerging leaders – and their talents – which help accelerate the industry and carry it into the future.

“IAVM and the IAVM Foundation continues to build an amazing future for young professionals in the venue management industry and the 30|UNDER|30 program continues to help lead those efforts,” said Mark Gnatovic, senior vice president of SearchWide and a Foundation Trustee. “The program selection process is not easy and each candidate has to be nominated and then submit a video application that is reviewed and scored by select industry leaders and Trustees. Those that earn the right to be recognized, truly earn the right. It’s inspiring and gratifying to see how creative and passionate these young professionals are. It will be fascinating to watch them as they develop into the future leaders of our industry.”

In its second year, this program focuses on identifying and developing the top talent in the venue management industry, 30 years of age and under, through increased access and exposure to industry networking and thought leadership. The 30|UNDER|30 Class of 2016 will convene for the first time at *VenueConnect*, IAVM’s annual conference and trade show, July 23-26, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They will also be provided opportunities for continued education for professional growth in the venue industry to help them become better, more productive employees.

Award recipients will receive full complimentary registration to *VenueConnect*, an \$850 travel stipend and a one-year complimentary Young Professional IAVM Membership. In addition to over \$2,000 in benefits, the 30|UNDER|30 recipients will be recognized at the Venue Industry Awards Luncheon at *VenueConnect* on Monday, July 25.

“On behalf of the IAVM Foundation’s Board of Trustees and committed donors, we are honored to announce the 30|UNDER|30 class of 2016,” said Mark Duryea, vice president of North American Routing & Tours for Feld Entertainment and the Foundation Chair. “We ARE building amazing futures for some of the top rising stars in the industry!”

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## Meet the IAVM Foundation's 30|UNDER|30 class of 2016:

- **Priscilla Almeida**, *Director of Event Services, Rose Quarter/Rip City Management, LLC*
- **David Bennett**, *Event & Facility Operations Manager, KSU Sports + Entertainment Park and Fifth Third Bank Stadium at Kennesaw State University*
- **Brooke Bockelman**, *Booking Manager, Jerome Schottenstein Center at Ohio State University*
- **Ben Bosse**, *Director of Event Services, Nashville Predators/Bridgestone Arena*
- **Nick Byer**, *Director of Events, Donald L. Tucker Civic Center at Florida State University/Spectra by Comcast-Spectacor*
- **Meghan Doyle**, *Director of Marketing, BOK Center/SMG*
- **Maggie Gendernalik**, *Marketing & Box Office Manager, KSU Sports + Entertainment Park and Fifth Third Bank Stadium at Kennesaw State University*
- **Imran Gill**, *Marketing & Communications Manager, Shaw Conference Centre*
- **Daniel Hare**, *Front of House Manager, Kings Theatre*
- **Emily Herr**, *Event Services Coordinator, Buffalo Bills/Ralph Wilson Stadium*
- **Michael Hilburn**, *Senior Manager, Ballpark Event Operations, Seattle Mariners/Safeco Field*
- **Aaron Hurt**, *Director of Operations, Butler Arts Center at Butler University*
- **Carly Johnston**, *Director of Marketing & Sales, Pensacola Bay Center/SMG*
- **Tara Krause**, *Food & Beverage Manager, Swiftel Center/VenuWorks*
- **Kristina Lankow**, *Sales & Marketing Manager, Swiftel Center/VenuWorks*
- **Todd Liermann**, *Manager of Complex Show Operations, The National Western Complex*
- **Max Long**, *Patron Services Manager, Denver Performing Arts Complex*
- **Corey Margolis**, *Assistant General Manager, Budweiser Gardens/Spectra by Comcast-Spectacor*
- **Matt McClain**, *Event Services Manager, Broadmoor World Arena & Pikes Peak Center*
- **Sarah Minnick**, *Senior Event Services Coordinator, Alamodome*
- **Christine Pileckas**, *Director of Sales & Marketing, INTRUST Bank Arena/SMG*
- **Rick Powell**, *Operations Manager, Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall/Spectra by Comcast-Spectacor*
- **Jenna Ricupero**, *Director of Catering Sales, Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland and Global Center for Health Innovation/Levy Restaurants*
- **Micheal Robinson II**, *Event Coordinator, Curtis Culwell Center*
- **Mike Santa**, *CVP, General Manager, Indiana University Auditorium*
- **Brian Smith**, *Special Events Manager, BOK Center/SMG*
- **Allie Thomas**, *Event Services Coordinator, Cox Business Center/SMG*
- **Sara Waltemire**, *Event Services Manager, Meydenbauer Center*
- **Hayley Ward**, *Front of House Manager, AT&T Performing Arts Center*
- **Michelle Witkins**, *Account Executive, The Baltimore Convention Center*

## Exciting Developments at the National Western Complex

After celebrating the 110<sup>th</sup> Stock Show this January, the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo is on the cusp of undergoing a massive overhaul to become, The National Western Center, a year round dynamic facility and institution. It is envisioned as a place where year-round activity ensures the NWC becomes an asset to surrounding neighborhoods ... by providing 46 acres of open space within the footprint of the Center, as well as river access and recreational opportunities, all while fostering tourism and agricultural development.



The 1 billion dollar, 8 phase development of the National Western Center is an interesting partnership of private and public entities and will be driven by an appointed board. Entities involved include CSU, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, History Colorado, and the City of Denver. Over the next decade all of these plans are scheduled to come to fruition and should result in one of the most unique complexes in the nation.

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**Todd Liermann** – Is the Manager of Complex Shows at the National Western Stock Show, but will be relocating to Omaha Nebraska, and is looking for opportunities within the industry in that area. Todd graduated from the Univ. of Pittsburgh with a degree in Biology and has enjoyed his 3 years with the Stock Show managing events and working with industry professionals in Denver.

## **WINGAPALOOZA, PRESENTED BY PRIORITY MOTORSPORTS, RETURNS FOR ITS SECOND YEAR ON AUG. 20**

SMG and INTRUST Bank Arena are pleased to announce the Second Annual Wingapalooza, presented by Priority MotorSports, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016 at INTRUST Bank Arena. The one-of-a-kind event will again feature Wichita-area restaurants and chefs showcasing their best wings.



Wingapalooza will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the main arena floor and will include all-you-can-eat wings, a beer garden featuring select local craft beer options, and entertainment and music from a live DJ. Fans will have the opportunity to sample unique chicken wing recipes from the more than 20 restaurants and local chefs who will be showcasing their culinary flare and craft and competing for the best chicken wings in Wichita. Participating restaurants and chefs will vie for two awards at the event: a People's Choice Award, or "Lord of the Wings," and a Judge's Choice Award. 2015 Wingapalooza winners included The Hungry Heart, Wings & Things, River City Brewing Company and The Anchor.

"Our inaugural Wingapalooza in 2015 was extremely successful and we're excited to be making this event an annual occurrence," said A.J. Boleski, SMG General Manager of INTRUST Bank Arena. "This unique event gives us the opportunity to put the spotlight on the amazing restaurants and chefs that we have right here in Wichita and we're looking forward to seeing what recipes they've all prepared for this year's event."

Tickets for the all-you-can-eat event are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Tickets to Wingapalooza are limited and the 2015 inaugural event sold out; guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets go on sale today, Thursday, May 12 at 10 a.m. and can be purchased online at [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com), in person at the INTRUST Bank Arena Box Office or by calling 855-755-SEAT (7328). For more information on Wingapalooza, fans can visit [www.intrustbankarena.com/wingapalooza](http://www.intrustbankarena.com/wingapalooza).

Participating restaurants already on board to compete at Wingapalooza include Hungry Heart, Wing Street, Wingstop, Gianni Bacci's, Delano BBQ and Emerson Biggins. Space is still available for local restaurants and chefs who are interested in competing at Wingapalooza. For more information on competing, please contact Ryan Decker at [ryan.decker@intrustbankarena.com](mailto:ryan.decker@intrustbankarena.com) or 316-440-9021. INTRUST Bank Arena is proud to have Alt 107.3 as the radio sponsor for Wingapalooza. Additional sponsorship and vendor opportunities are available. For more information, please contact Kandace Day at [kandace.day@intrustbankarena.com](mailto:kandace.day@intrustbankarena.com) or 316-440-9012.

### **CHRISTINE PILECKAS NAMED TO IAVM'S 30 UNDER 30 CLASS**

Christine Pileckas, SMG Director of Sales & Marketing for INTRUST Bank Arena, has been named to the 2016 30|UNDER|30 class by the International Association of Venue Managers Foundation (IAVMF). In its second year, this program focuses on identifying and developing the top talent in the venue management industry, 30 years of age and under, through increased access and exposure to industry networking and thought leadership.



Pileckas was honored for her wide list of accomplishments at INTRUST Bank Arena. Christine has served as a member of Young Professionals of Wichita for the past 5 years and was named "Volunteer of the Year" in 2015 for the organization's Pulse action team committee. In 2014, Pileckas was named a *Venues Today* Generation Next award winner, an award that recognizes leaders 35 or younger who make a difference in the live entertainment industry. Additionally, Pileckas played a vital role in successfully selling more than 75,000 tickets to Garth Brooks at INTRUST Bank Arena in December 2015 and the planning and execution of hosting his six sold out concerts in just four days.

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“We are very proud of Christine for being recognized as a leader of her generation within the venue management industry,” said SMG General Manager, A.J. Boleski. “Christine’s passion for our facility and the industry as a whole is evident in her everyday results and has been instrumental in our venue’s success to date.”

As part of the Build an Amazing Future campaign focused on students, young professionals, and mid-level venue management, the 30|UNDER|30 program is designed to engage the best and brightest young professionals in the venue management industry by recognizing emerging leaders – and their talents – which help accelerate the industry and carry it into the future. The 30|UNDER|30 Class of 2016 will convene for the first time at VenueConnect, IAVM’s annual conference and trade show, July 23-26, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They will also be provided opportunities for continued education for professional growth in the venue industry to help them become better, more productive employees.

Representing public assembly venues from around the globe, IAVM’s 5,400 active members include managers and senior executives from auditoriums, arenas, convention centers, exhibit halls, stadiums, performing arts centers, university complexes, racetracks, and amphitheatres.

## **Amarillo Civic Center Complex Seeking Event Manager**

The Amarillo Civic Center Complex is seeking to fill the position of an Event Manager. The Event Manager is responsible for performing administrative and supervisory work in directing the use of Civic Center Complex. The Event Manager will directly supervise a permanent staff of 3 event supervisors, indirectly supervise a permanent staff of 18 building attendants, and indirectly supervise several part-time and contract employees.

For the complete job description, please visit <https://careers.amarillo.gov>.

### **Minimum Preferred Qualifications**

- High school diploma or GED is required.
- Two (2) to five (5) years of supervisory experience in a public assembly facility is required.
- Advanced knowledge and skills with personal computers and common applications such as Microsoft Office and booking software required.
- Requires a valid Texas driver’s license.

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Associates or Bachelors Degree in a related field of study to the venue industry.
- IAVM’s Trained Crowd Manager Certificate.

For the complete job description or to apply, please visit <https://careers.amarillo.gov>.

## **LIVE GREAT 918: TULSA FITNESS FAIR HIGHLIGHTS HEALTHY LIVING IN TULSA**

Attention all Tulsa fitness fanatics and families! You are invited to Live Great 918: Tulsa Fitness Fair presented by Health Zone at Saint Francis in BOK Center’s Grand Lobby on July 23 from 10AM–2PM. In its third year, Live Great 918 is a free event that highlights Tulsa’s local health and fitness options that are available to the community.



“Tulsa is a city full of people that care greatly about living healthy lifestyles,” said Jeff Nickler, SMG Tulsa General Manager. “We’re excited to be able to host Live Great 918 again to display the various active and healthy lifestyle options offered around the city.”

In addition to the Live Great 918: Tulsa Fitness Fair festivities, Dodgebrawl presented by 2 Fellas Moving Company returns to BOK Center on July 23 for its fifth consecutive year and registration is still open for the event [here](#). With a 64 team bracket, each team pulls together to win money for the charity of its choice with each team being guaranteed three games and with the top three teams winning prizes. Admission to watch this event is free alongside the fitness fair and the community is invited to come cheer on teams as they compete on BOK Center’s floor throughout the duration of the "Live Great 918" fair.

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Live Great 918: Tulsa Fitness Fair is presented by Health Zone at Saint Francis. Dodgebrawl is presented by 2 Fellas Moving Company. Other partners include Shock Top, Fox23, Tulsa Community College, BlueStone, iHeart Media, 1430 The Buzz, 92-1 The Beat and 97-5 KMOD. Both events are coordinated and produced by SMG Tulsa Special Events.

More information about Live Great 918 and Dodgebrawl can be found at [www.tulsadodgebrawl.com](http://www.tulsadodgebrawl.com). Questions or other inquiries about Live Great 918, Dodgebrawl or other SMG special events can be directed to Austin Bowles, Special Events Coordinator, at 918.894.4267 or [abowles@smgtulsa.com](mailto:abowles@smgtulsa.com).

## **BOK CENTER TEAM MEMBERS SELECTED FOR INDUSTRY HONORS**

Two BOK Center team members have been selected to the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) Foundation's 30 Under 30 Class of 2016 to be recognized at *VenueConnect*, IAVM's Annual Conference & Trade Show in Minneapolis, MN from July 23-26, 2016.



BOK Center garnered two honorees: Meghan Doyle, Director of Marketing, and Brian Smith, Special Events Manager. Allie Thomas, Events Manager at Cox Business Center, also a part of the SMG Tulsa team was also selected for the 30 Under 30 program.

As part of the Build an Amazing Future campaign focused on students, young professionals and mid-level venue management, the 30 Under 30 program is designed to engage the best and brightest young professionals in the venue management industry by recognizing emerging leaders and their talents, which help accelerate the industry and carry it into the future.

"The program selection process is not easy and each candidate has to be nominated and then submit a video application that is reviewed and scored by select industry leaders and Trustees," said Mark Gnatovic, senior vice president of SearchWide and a Foundation Trustee. "Those that earn the right to be recognized, truly earn the right. It's inspiring and gratifying to see how creative and passionate these young professionals are. It will be fascinating to watch them as they develop into the future leaders of our industry."

In its second year, the 30 Under 30 program focuses on identifying and developing the talent of venue industry professionals, 30 years of age and under, through increased access and exposure to industry networking and thought leadership. Honorees were awarded based on their professionalism, creativity and industry insight. The program provides year-round continued education for professional growth in the venue industry and helps program participants become better, more productive employees.

The 30 Under 30 Class receives one full, complimentary registration to *VenueConnect*, a travel stipend to be used on travel accommodations to the conference and a complimentary one-year Young Professional membership to IAVM. Honorees will be recognized formally at the Venue Industry Awards luncheon on Monday, July 26, 2016.

"Meghan and Brian are incredibly deserving of this recognition they have received from IAVM. We are lucky to have such dedicated and talented people as part of our team," said BOK Center General Manager Jeff Nickler. "Being a part of this 30 Under 30 class will help them grow and thrive in the industry even more than they already do."

## **Topeka Performing Arts Center Celebrates 25 Years!**

On May 12th, 2016, Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) hosted a season preview event like no other seen in the building before. The program consisted of a cocktail hour, presentation of the upcoming 25th Anniversary Season and live performances by comedian Jimmy McHugh and local community ballet companies Ballet Midwest and Kansas Ballet Academy.

Grape Escape: A Toast to the Arts, TPAC's annual food & wine festival, generates funds for the non-profit organization to support the youth education programs promoting arts education. This year, the event will feature stand-up comedian and ABC sitcom "Full House" star, Dave Coulier (Joey) and attendance for the August 12th event is expected to be the largest attended event since its beginning 19 years ago. (Continued, page 6...)





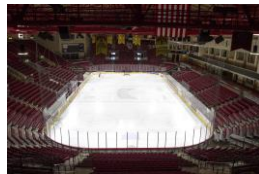
**Photo Credit: Bill Blankenship, Topeka Capital Journal**

The 25th Anniversary Season line-up includes Willie Nelson with Leon Russell (August 2), Chicago (August 7), Liverpool Legends (September 24), Rockin' Road to Dublin (October 9), Gordon Lightfoot (October 11), Hairball (October 14), Octonauts Live (October 16), Big Head Blues Club featuring Big Head Todd & The Monsters, Mud Morganfield, Billy Branch and Ronnie Baker Brooks (October 28), Theresa Caputo (October 30), FAME the Musical (November 19), PAW Patrol Live! (November 30), A Classic Rock Christmas featuring The December People (December 3), Chicago Comedy All Stars featuring Jimmy McHugh, Sonya White and Tim Walkoe (February 11), The Texas Tenors (March 4) and The Leroy Van Dyke Country Gold Tour (March 26).

Executive Director, Larry Gawronski, formally with TPAC's management company, VenuWorks, set up a season in just a few short months that has been a step above past seasons at the venue. "We need to be diverse," Gawronski explains. "We need to touch as many audiences as possible and give something to everybody." With the upcoming 25th Anniversary Season, TPAC has done just that. For more details on the upcoming season and other events, visit [www.topekaperformingarts.org](http://www.topekaperformingarts.org).

### **Ritchie Center to Enhance Audio Systems**

The Daniel L. Ritchie Center for Sports and Wellness will complete an upgrade to a variety of audio systems within the facility. This project is phase III of a multi-year project which has seen the building upgrade its production room and video boards. The audio phase is expected to begin in late May and be completed by late July. The project will impact the Magness Arena, Hamilton Gymnasium, El Pomar Natatorium, Joy Burns Arena, CIBER Field and Stadium and the Peter Barton Lacrosse Field and Stadium.



"We are extremely excited and grateful to the University of Denver for its support of the overhaul of our audio and video capabilities within the Ritchie Center," shared by Stuart Halsall, Associate Vice Chancellor of Athletics and Recreation, "With the wide ranging use of the Ritchie Center by both the University and Denver community, these upgrades will allow for us to continue to offer championship caliber experiences as well as local, regional, national and international events."

This project was originally scheduled for the summer of 2015, but due to the Ritchie Center being struck by a tornado and the ensuing flood which caused over four million dollars of damage to the facility, this project was moved to a year later. We are excited to bring a new audio experience in many of our venues to our students, faculty/staff, Alumni, friends and fans this fall.

### **Ritchie Center Hosts Successful Graduation Season**

The Ritchie Center hosted another successful graduation season, hosting a total of 22 graduations between May 7 and June 4. Graduations in Magness Arena included the Community College of Aurora, Community College of Denver, Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek Public Schools, Denver Public Schools and University of Denver Law, Graduate, and Undergraduate Commencements. These graduations serve as an important piece of the Ritchie Center's community engagement in bringing thousands through the door as the gateway to the University of Denver campus.



## College Park Center Sell Out!

May 21 was a great night at College Park Center as the Dallas Wings defeated the San Antonio Stars 82-77 in a sellout inaugural home opener. DFW's professional WNBA team took their first victory in front of a crowd of 7,275 at their new College Park Center home court.



The franchise, which relocated from Tulsa in July 2015, brought the WNBA to the Dallas/Fort Worth area for the first time in the 20-year history of the league. The Dallas Wings will play a total of 17 home games at College Park Center, located on the campus of The University of Texas at Arlington, through the end of September.



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### Thank you to our newsletter contributors this month!

Meghan Doyle – BOK Center  
Jason Hensel – IAVM WHQ  
Alie Koch – University of Denver Athletics & Recreation  
Todd Liermann – National Western Stock Show Complex  
Han Owens – Amarillo Civic Center Complex  
Christine Pileckas – INTRUST Bank Arena  
Pamela Webb – Marketing UTA Tickets – College Park Center  
Megan Yaussi – Topeka Performing Arts Center

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