

2017 TOP FORTY UNDER FORTY

The judges

Walter T. Camp
Attorney, mediator,
CMA and consultant
Top 40 class of 2001

Walter T. Camp is an independent, certified commercial mediator. He also serves clients as a business executive and consultant, attorney, owner's representative on construction projects and certified management accountant. His ongoing community service currently includes appointment to a Virginia Supreme Court mediation quality panel, work for the Norfolk FBI Citizen's Academy, and as director and past chairman of the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation.



Wanda Cooper
Owner, The Cooper Law Firm
Top 40 class of 2006

Wanda Cooper is a member of the Virginia State Bar, U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia and the Virginia Beach Bar. She is owner of The Cooper Law Firm and specializes in traffic and serious criminal defense matters. She has received many awards including Inside Business's Top 40 Under 40 and Women in Business awards and the YWCA's Woman of Distinction Award. She is on the TowneBank Leadership Alliance and the school board of Green Run Collegiate.



Alejandro J. Medina
Architect, Clark Nexsen
Top 40 class of 2016

Alejandro J. Medina believes creativity and design can transform the world. As a project architect at Clark Nexsen, Medina puts this belief into action as a designer of higher education projects, including Virginia State University's 167,000-square-foot multipurpose center and Old Dominion University's basketball practice facility. He also owns a photography and graphic/web design business. He is a board member and founder of tHRive. He created PorousCity, an initiative of the AIA and Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative.



Jennifer Ann Saunders Pfitzner
Partner, Saunders,
Matthews & Pfitzner
Top 40 class of 2007

Jennifer Ann Saunders Pfitzner is a partner with accounting firm Saunders, Matthews & Pfitzner. She is a member of the Accountant's Society of Virginia, Hampton Roads Tax Forum,



the TowneBank Leadership Alliance, and is a 2016 graduate of the CIVIC Leadership Institute. She has committee positions with ForKids and Cedar Point Ladies Golf Association, as well as board positions with the Maury Foundation, Norfolk Crime Line, CHEAR, Randolph-Macon College Yellow Jacket Club, and Wards Corner Lions Club and Foundation.

Susan Pleasants
Director of VolunTier
Vision, VOLUNTEER
Hampton Roads

Susan Pleasants works with over 200 nonprofit member organizations that are a part of VOLUNTEER Hampton Roads to enhance member benefits, communications and services. She additionally directs VolunTier Vision, a systematic recruitment and placement system matching skilled professionals with nonprofit organizations in both short-term projects and longer term in board service. She has worked as a head hunter, community relations manager, event planner and charity dodgeball director.



Adam T. Rex
Vice president, risk
management, Cornerstone
Financial Services
Top 40 class of 2010

Adam Rex worked for Ernst & Young in Northern Virginia, then MassMutual and now Cornerstone Financial Services. He has deep market experience in management consulting and finance, working with primarily fortune 100 companies for almost 10 years, followed by work with small and mid-size businesses in Hampton Roads for more than 10 years. At Cornerstone, he helps companies function efficiently with stated financial constraints.



Owen Van Syckle
Financial services
professional, New York Life
Top 40 class of 2010

Owen Van Syckle works with individuals, families and business owners on business, estate, charitable planning and tax objectives. He provides clients with state-of-the-art planning strategies and customized analyses to meet their goals, challenges, opportunities and dreams. He is the founder of the Presidents Luncheon Hampton Roads, founder of the Sales Acceleration Academy, graduate of LEAD Hampton Roads class of 2009, and a graduate of CIVIC Leadership Institute, class of 2015. He was appointed to the Commonwealth of Virginia Small Business Commission 2013-2014.



The event

When: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Where: Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 East Main St., Norfolk
More information: InsideBiz.com

The section

Produced by the staff of Inside Business, The Hampton Roads Business Journal
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Assistant editor, Nate Delesline III
Photos, Amanda MacDiarmid

EVENT NOW HAS 760 GRADUATES

THE TOP 40 UNDER 40 event started in 1999, and Inside Business is honoring 40 young professionals for the 19th time.

These awards are given to those successful in their careers and involved in the community.

The 40 people highlighted in this special section represent a variety of occupations, and some of the individuals have a variety of occupations. They all work hard and volunteer often to make Hampton Roads a better place.

It is our hope this honor encourages them and others to go out and work even harder to be successful and get involved.

We thank our judges, listed here, whose commitment to this program has made it stronger over the years, and the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, where our honorees will receive their awards Tuesday. We also recognize our sponsors, without whose support the event and the publication about the honorees would not be possible.

2017 honorees

Robert Beasley III	Page 21	Kapil Kapoor	Page 38
Jenny Bonsiewicz	Page 23	Megin Kennett	Page 40
Sarah Buck	Page 24	Stephen Korving	Page 40
Kaitlin Burket	Page 24	Krendl	Page 41
Scott Campbell	Page 26	Amy Kurtz	Page 42
Lee Cross	Page 26	Anne Lahren	Page 43
Rob Cutchins	Page 28	Ramsay McCullough	Page 43
Kevin Daisey	Page 28	Elizabeth Napolitano	Page 44
Jessica Dixon	Page 29	Megan Patrick	Page 45
Hillary Doriguzzi	Page 29	Casey Roberts	Page 46
William Duncan	Page 30	Ryan Samuel	Page 46
Christel Dyer	Page 32	Barbara Sgueglia	Page 48
Renee Fairchild	Page 33	Cappy Sinclair	Page 48
Emily Farley	Page 33	Caitlin Stojanovich	Page 49
Shikee Franklin	Page 34	Jennifer Swets	Page 49
Bo Garner	Page 34	Elizabeth Ufkes	Page 51
John Garrett	Page 35	Jessica Washington	Page 51
Richard Groover	Page 36	James Wood	Page 52
Lance Jones Jr.	Page 36	Amber Zufelt	Page 53
Jeremy Jordan	Page 38		

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