

Newsmakers: People on the move in Palm Beach business, civic life

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By Wendi Ladika - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

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ACCOUNTING

Barron & Kogan, CPAs, a local public accounting firm based in the western communities, announced the completion of a major expansion of their firm. The firm, which is owned by Hope Barron and Galina Kogan, was founded 14 years ago in Wellington and has grown its clientele and the business services being offered every year.



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Allison Turner

The recent expansion allows the firm to continue providing tax, accounting and consulting services, as well as to expand their “soup to nuts” back office business services. Barron and Kogan’s back office business services include payroll, payables, receivables, human resources and other business needs.

Barron and Kogan now has nine professional members on staff, that in total, offer their clients over 200 years of combined accounting experience. They cater to both individuals and a wide variety of businesses including medical, dental, veterinary, construction, equestrian, real estate and legal...all on the local level and with a personal touch.

EDUCATION



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Ben Whitman

Palm Beach Atlantic University's board of trustees has selected **James C. Jenkins**, executive vice president of Esko, a Palm Beach-based family office/ private investment firm, as its new chairman. Jenkins is an executive with more than 30 years' experience starting and growing businesses focused in real estate, credit and wealth management.

He is a co-founder of The Alliant Company, currently the 11th largest multi-family property owner in the United States with more than 700 properties; Spectrum Financial Corporation, a senior secured lender to middle market companies, and recently Elite Stor Capital Partners, an owner/operator of self-storage properties.

Jenkins' strong interest in education led him to serve as a trustee of Palm Beach Atlantic University, where his roles have included chairman of Finance, Investment and Trustee and Governance committees and board vice chairman. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and is a Certified Public Accountant.



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Colin McCann

The Palm Beach Atlantic board of trustees also elected **Robert Simpson** of Wellington as vice chairman. Simpson is a retired business executive who holds a bachelor's of science degree from University of Texas at El Paso.

John W. Little III of West Palm Beach has been elected board secretary. Little is a partner with the Gunster Law Firm and holds a bachelor's of arts degree from Wake Forest University, and a juris doctor from Florida State University.

In addition, **Patrick C. Koenig**, president of Flagler Realty & Development, Inc., has been appointed to the Palm Beach Atlantic University Board of Trustees. Koenig has been active in the real estate industry for over 30 years, acting as a real estate broker, manager and developer of commercial properties.



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Corey Hill

ENGINEERING

Wantman Group announced that two of its associates recently earned professional licenses. **Colin McCann** earned his registered landscape architect license. He has four years of experience in the profession and is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a bachelor of architecture degree in landscape architecture. He is also an active member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Corey Hill earned his professional engineer license. Formerly an engineering intern with Wantman, Hill has been with the company for over three years. He is a graduate of University of Florida where he earned both bachelor's and master's of civil engineering degrees.



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Jim Jenkins

ENVIRONMENT

The **Institute for Regional Conservation**, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection, restoration, and long-term management of biodiversity, announced that **Kingsley Dixon** has joined their board of directors.

Raised in Perth Australia, Dixon developed a love for native plants at a young age and now has more than 30 years experience with Australian native plants and ecosystems. As director of science at the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, and more recently a personal Chair at Curtin University, Dixon has led a research team of over 40 members focusing on the ecological restoration and conservation sciences. His personal research is focused on rare and threatened species, restoration of damaged landscapes, conservation of indigenous Australian plants, and orchid biology and conservation.



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Kingsley Dixon

LEGAL

Clark, Fountain, La Vista, Prather, Keen and Littky-Rubin, a catastrophic personal injury law firm headquartered in West Palm Beach, announced attorney **Ben J. Whitman** has joined its practice.

Prior to joining Clark Fountain, Whitman was an attorney at one of Florida's most established insurance defense firms where he litigated cases on behalf of some of the world's largest insurers.



+ Pamela Rauch

A Jacksonville native, Whitman graduated cum laude from University of Florida with a in bachelor's of arts degree in history, and from Florida State University College of Law.

NONPROFITS

The **American Heart Association and American Stroke Association** has named **Pamela Rauch**, vice president of development and external affairs at Florida Power & Light Company in Juno Beach, as chairwoman of the 2016 Palm Beach County Go Red For Women Campaign. The 4th Annual Go Red For Women Luncheon takes place on April 7, 2016 at the Four Seasons Palm Beach.



+ Patrick C. Koenig

Rauch graduated from Florida State University College of Law with honors, and earned undergraduate degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

RECOGNITION

Valerie Herskowitz of **The Chocolate Spectrum** has been named a winner at the 12th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. A resident of Palm Beach Gardens, Herskowitz won for her efforts to provide work opportunities for adults with autism by founding The Chocolate Spectrum. She won the gold Female Innovator of the Year Stevie Award in the Government or Non-Profit –10 or Less Employees category.



VALERIE HERSKOWITZ

The 2016 edition of the South Florida Legal Guide names Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbsin West Palm Beach as a Top Law Firm. Additionally, it names twelve Jones Foster lawyers as Top Lawyers, including **Larry B. Alexander, David E. Bowers, Margaret L. Cooper, Mark Dahlmeier, Tasha K. Dickinson, Scott G. Hawkins, Thornton M. Henry, Joanne M. O'Connor, John C. "Skip" Randolph, Sidney A. Stubbs Jr., Roberto M. Vargas and H. Adams Weaver.**