

RISING STARS

By DeLynn Deakins | *Today's CPA* Managing Editor

Through the Rising Stars Program, TSCPA recognizes CPA members 40 years old and younger who have demonstrated innovative leadership qualities and active involvement in TSCPA, the accounting profession and/or their communities. After receiving 48 nominations, a task force made up of TSCPA Executive Board members selected 14 up-and-comers for 2016. We now introduce you to the members, in alphabetical order, who are the Rising Stars honorees.



Ryan Bartholomee, CPA-Permian Basin, CGMA

Chief Financial Officer; Shenandoah Petroleum Corporation; Midland

Ryan Bartholomee is the chief financial officer for Shenandoah Petroleum Corp., an independently owned and operated oil and gas exploration and production company in Midland. Bartholomee has served on TSCPA's Permian Basin Chapter's Board of Directors since 2009. He held the offices of vice president and president-elect before serving as president for the 2013-2014 year. His involvement at the state level includes serving on TSCPA's Executive Board, the CPE Advisory Board and as a director-at-large. He was also coordinating officer to the Young CPAs and Emerging Professionals Committee and was a member of the Federal Tax Policy Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. In the community, Bartholomee is active with his church in numerous capacities. He is described as an individual who has contributed much to TSCPA, the accounting profession and his community.



Aaron Borden, CPA-Dallas

Associate Tax Attorney; Meadows, Collier, Reed, Cousins, Crouch & Ungerman, LLP; Dallas

As an associate tax attorney at his firm, Aaron Borden represents clients in disputes with the IRS, Department of Justice and the Texas comptroller. His participation with TSCPA includes serving as a valuable and contributing member of the Editorial Board for *Today's CPA* magazine. At the Dallas Chapter level, he has served on the Membership Committee, Public Affairs Committee and Nominations Committee. Borden is an author who has published several articles in professional journals, including *Today's CPA*. He is also an active speaker, delivering presentations on employer penalties associated with the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. In the community, he is involved with the Dallas Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association and Habitat for Humanity. With his impressive academic credentials and leadership skills, Borden has a promising career ahead of him.



Bryce Bowley, CPA-South Plains, CFE

Audit Senior Manager; Robinson Burdette Martin & Seright, LLP; Lubbock

Bryce Bowley is an audit senior manager at Robinson Burdette Martin & Seright, LLP. In this position, he manages financial statement audits from the planning stages to final report. He has taken the lead on various initiatives at his firm, including implementation of a paperless audit process. He was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the South Plains Chapter of TSCPA, as well as for Parenting Cottage, a local nonprofit agency. He is also a graduate of Leadership Lubbock and a recipient of the Lubbock Young Professionals 20 Under 40 Award. This yearly award is given to business professionals under 40 who have demonstrated leadership in their careers and actively participated in the community. He is a CPA who has committed himself to becoming very active locally and to serving his clients in the best manner possible.



Jason Cables, CPA-Dallas, CFF, CFE, CGMA

Associate Director; Navigant; Dallas

As an associate director in Navigant's Forensic Accounting and Claims Consulting practice, Jason Cables has extensive experience calculating business interruption and property damage claims on behalf of corporate policy holders impacted by catastrophic events. Additionally, Cables assists companies in the evaluation of business interruption values at risk, which aids in insurance purchasing decisions. Among other awards, he has been recognized within Navigant for excellent client service and was selected as a Top 40 Under 40 by the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA). Cables prides himself on giving back to his community. Each year, he helps to plan and participates in the DFW Tour de Cure, a cycling event that raised over \$700,000 in 2015 to educate the public and find a cure for diabetes. In his work and volunteer endeavors, he has shown a strong commitment to his clients and the community.



Toni Ciggs, CPA-Fort Worth

Tax Manager; Tom B. Johnson CPA, PC; Arlington

In her position as tax manager, Toni Ciggs is responsible for tax preparation, compilations and reviews, research and tax planning. She has served on TSCPA's Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee, the Fort Worth Chapter's Communications Committee, and is a graduate of TSCPA's Leadership Development Institute and the Fort Worth Chapter's Leadership Development Program. She also serves as a board member for The Women's Center of Tarrant County. In 2008, she co-founded Diamonds of Distinction, a nonprofit organization formed to bring together women who are dedicated to supporting, empowering, motivating and uplifting the lives of individuals while making a powerful impact on society through community involvement, mentoring, adolescent scholarships and social activities. She began the Sparkle Mentorship Program, which is geared toward mentoring teenage girls ages 12-18 and provides scholarships to assist them financially with college tuition. Her strong work ethic has helped build an organization that makes a real difference in today's world.



Tatiana Markov, CPA-Fort Worth

Managing Director; Recruiting Edge, LLC; Fort Worth

Tatiana Markov founded Recruiting Edge, LLC in 2013 after having practiced public accounting for a number of years. Recruiting Edge is a specialized boutique staffing firm focused exclusively on accounting and finance professionals in cities all over Texas. As managing director, she is involved with business development, marketing, accounting, information technology, and developing and maintaining client relationships. Since its founding, the business has grown from concept to profitable company with year-over-year growth. In the community, Markov counsels veterans and assists them with their transition out of the Army. Her mentorship efforts enable the veterans to properly translate the skill sets they have and gain employment in corporate America. She is described as a CPA who is well connected in the community and serves as a bright light for young professionals.



Ashlee Martin, CPA-Austin

Associate; Bott & Douthitt PLLC; Round Rock

In her position with Bott & Douthitt PLLC, Ashlee Martin manages the accounting and financial statement preparation for numerous governmental entities, with a specialization in municipal utility districts in and around central Texas. Martin began her career in the assurance and advisory sector of Deloitte. Recently, she brought her talent and knowledge of the governmental sector to Bott & Douthitt PLLC. Throughout her career, Martin has been involved with several community organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Texas Hearing and Service Dogs and the Executive Women's Golf Association. She is also involved with her alma mater, Southwestern University, where she serves on various committees for the university. She is a graduate of TSCPA's Austin Chapter's Leadership Academy and currently assists on the task force to develop the Leadership Academy program. As evidenced by her work and volunteer endeavors, Martin has shown her commitment to the accounting profession and her community.



Imelda Moreno, CPA-El Paso

Tax Manager; Strickler & Prieto, LLP; El Paso

Imelda Moreno is a manager of the tax department at her firm's office, established in 1995, which is a leading accounting and consulting firm in the El Paso, Texas/Juarez, Mexico region. She is a mentor to young professionals within her firm and local universities. She has served on TSCPA's El Paso Chapter's Board of Directors and is the chapter's 2016-2017 president-elect. Her involvement in the community includes being a member of the Junior League and the Hispanic Chamber's Empire Builders, as well as a board member for the Salvation Army and Junior Achievement of El Paso. With Junior Achievement, she is passionate about ensuring that every child in America has a fundamental understanding of the free enterprise system. She considers teaching the importance of financial literacy to be especially rewarding.

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Kate Rhoden, CPA-Austin

Senior Audit Manager; Brown, Graham & Company, P.C.; Austin

Kate Rhoden is a senior manager at Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. in Austin. In her role at BGC, Rhoden specializes in the low income housing tax credit industry and public housing authorities, overseeing audits and reviews for various clients within these industries. She also provides consulting assistance to small business clients, and develops and mentors new staff members. She is a graduate of TSCPA's Austin Chapter's Leadership Academy and is heavily involved with chapter activities. Rhoden has led the community involvement area and projects for the chapter, and has served on the chapter's Oversight Council and Executive Board. In addition, Rhoden chairs the Austin Community College Accounting Advisory Board, providing guidance on college accounting programs and supporting students who are on the path to becoming CPAs. She is regarded as an excellent role model, a champion for students and as someone who exemplifies the best of the profession.



Norman Robbins III, CPA-Fort Worth

Manager; Mark M. Jones & Associates, P.C.; Fort Worth

In his position at Mark M. Jones & Associates, P.C., Norm Robbins provides consulting, tax planning and tax preparation services for individuals, partnerships, corporations, estates and trusts. He's also involved with litigation support, and he conducts audits, reviews and compilations for small to medium-sized businesses. He is the chair of TSCPA's Young CPAs and Emerging Professionals Committee and a graduate of the Leadership Development Institute. He is also active with TSCPA's Fort Worth Chapter. He received the chapter's Young CPA of the Year award for 2015-2016 and is a graduate of the Leadership Development Program. He has served the chapter as treasurer and member of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. In addition, he participates with the Downtown Fort Worth Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce and Vision Fort Worth. He is thought of as a CPA who has established a history of giving back, with a bright future as a TSCPA volunteer.



Ruben Rodriguez Jr., CPA-Houston

International Tax Professional; RSM US, LLP; Houston

Ruben Rodriguez is an international tax professional at RSM US, LLP in Houston, where his duties include tax planning and compliance for foreign individuals, partnerships and corporations. He has a focus on understanding the needs of his clients and how the firm can impact them and their businesses. Rodriguez has served on TSCPA's Houston Chapter's Relations with Taxing Authorities Committee and Young Professionals Committee. He also serves as treasurer and member of the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA). He has participated extensively with local and national committees within his firm, as well as with the International Tax Forum-Houston and the Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos. Due to his community involvement, dedication to his profession and commitment to mentoring others, he is considered a CPA who is deserving of recognition.



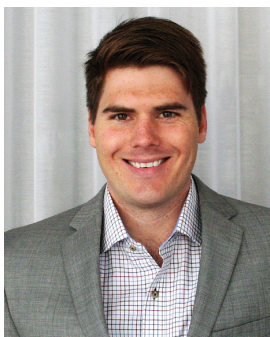
Ryan Scharar, CPA-Fort Worth
Attorney – CPA; Scharar Law Firm, PC; Fort Worth

Ryan Scharar started his own separate practices in law and accounting in 2014. After obtaining his MBA from Baylor University, Scharar worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers and went on to receive his law degree from Michigan State University in 2009. Currently, he advises corporate and individual clients on a variety of business law, taxation, nonprofit and estate planning matters. He is a graduate of TSCPA's Fort Worth Chapter's Leadership Development Program and serves as chair of the chapter's Tax Institute Planning Committee. He is a statewide director for the Texas Young Lawyers Association. Scharar frequently travels to Malawi, a small country in southern Africa, where he serves as an alternate director on a publicly traded African insurance-banking group holding company. In Malawi, he helped organize and sponsor a presentation to approximately 100 accounting students attending the University of Malawi-College of Accountancy. Scharar is also a member of the American Academy of Attorney-Certified Public Accountants.



Mark Selking Jr., CPA-Fort Worth
Tax Manager; Whitley Penn, LLP; Fort Worth

As a tax manager, Mark Selking works with a broad range of clients, focusing on private clients primarily in the health care, nonprofit, real estate and professional services industries. He is a resource and mentor for 25-30 younger employees within the tax department. As a TSCPA member, Selking has worked on committees with the Fort Worth Chapter. He is a graduate of the chapter's Leadership Development Program and has served as chairman of the UP Group, the chapter's under 40 professionals group. For TSCPA, he has served on several committees, including the Young CPAs and Emerging Professionals Committee. Selking was also a recent graduate of the Leadership Fort Worth Leading Edge Class of 2016. His community involvement includes positions with the Rotary Club of Western Fort Worth and serving the YMCA as the campaign chairman for the YMCA's Annual Campaign. He is described as a CPA who represents the future of leaders within the accounting world.



Sean Skellenger, CPA-Austin
Independent Contractor; Realtor – Urbanspace Real Estate; Senior Analyst – VMG Health; Austin

Sean Skellenger is an independent contractor in Austin. In his position as Realtor at Urbanspace Real Estate, he advises individuals and investors on how to diversify their portfolios with real estate based on their risk/reward situation, tax objectives and cash flow needs. As senior analyst at VMG Health, he provides financial statement analysis, consulting services and valuation assistance to health care entities. He is active with TSCPA's Austin Chapter. He has been chair of community involvement for the chapter and co-chair of the Leaders Emerging in the Accounting Profession (LEAP) group. Through his leadership, the group has organized events to connect young professionals with TSCPA. The chapter and LEAP group are also dedicated to helping the homeless in Austin by volunteering at the Capital Area Food Drive of Texas. Skellenger has proven leadership skills and is passionate about involving younger/newer members in their professional organization. ■