

Laura Stokes-Gray '71
Board Chair

Laura launched her management consulting practice in 2000 after two decades as a senior-level financial marketing executive and four years as the CEO of a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization. Stokes-Gray Consulting specializes in strategic initiatives for the not-for-profit sector. When asked about her time at Barat, Laura says, "they were four exquisitely happy years and I continue to be grateful for the experience." She served as Co-Chair of the BCAA Board from 2002-2004. As a member of the St. Philip Neri School Foundation Board, she is helping to build a \$1 million endowment fund for the school.

A native of Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, Laura currently resides in Wheaton. She has a daughter, Laura Anne ("Annie") who was married in 2005. Laura is an avid student of science, politics, theology, philosophy, and the arts, with a special interest in aviation, particularly vintage aircraft. In her spare time, she writes poetry and short stories and is an accomplished cook and oenophile.

Heidi Fennewald Kuharich '92
Programs Chair

Heidi has been involved with the BCAA since 1999 and is a former Co-Chair of the Board. She is excited to begin this new challenge with the Board and is looking forward to an era of rejuvenation for the alums. After graduating from Barat, Heidi began working in the training industry, primarily in the financial services realm. After that she transitioned to the nonprofit sector, putting her extensive project management skills to use. Currently, Heidi is a freelance editor/writer.

Heidi married her husband, Andrew, in the Barat Chapel in 1999. With their son, Asa (3), they reside in an 1890 West Chicago house.

Lisa Riska-Barham '91
Nominations Chair

Lisa is currently an Account Director for National Premium, a company focusing on promotional marketing solutions. As a member of the BCAA Board, Lisa hopes to add fresh energy and focus to keeping the memory and positive attitude of the Barat traditions alive.

In her free time, she enjoys participating in a golf league and playing tennis. Lisa lives in Crystal Lake with her husband.

Cindy Cox '86
Missions Co-Chair

Cindy's career has been focused primarily in the financial services industry. She currently works JP Morgan Chase as a Credit Analyst in the Card Services Division. Cindy is anxious to assist in furthering the connections of alumni and preserving the legacy and principles on which Barat was founded.

Cindy currently lives in Central Florida, but is in the process of moving back to the Midwest.

Kathi Kalina '96
Missions Co-Chair

Kathi is a native of Chicago's North Shore. She was raised in Glenview and graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka. Staying close to her roots, she attended Barat where she earned a BA in Psychology. In the years following Barat, she worked as a child and adolescent counselor at Allendale Association. Kathi continued her education at Trinity International University where she earned a degree in biology and a teaching certificate. After seven years of teaching, she took advantage of an opportunity to move into the private sector. Presently, she is a technology and multimedia editor at Pearson Scott Foresman in Glenview.

Kathi resides in Evanston.

Jeff Akin '02
Treasurer

While at Barat, Jeff served as the Student Government President and transitioned to the BCAA immediately after graduation. After receiving his B.A. in Business & Marketing, Jeff went on to pursue an MBA including a Specialization in International Business from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Jeff is currently preparing to sit for the Certified Public Account (CPA) exam. His professional experience includes Marketing, Market Research, Finance, Purchasing, Project Management, and Sales Analytics in both the Nuclear Power and Pharmaceutical industries.

Jeff and his wife, Leah, live in Gurnee.

Ellen O'Harra Hill '79
Secretary

Ellen is a native of Des Moines, Iowa and a second generation Sacred Heart girl (her mother went to Duchesne, Omaha). She was involved in student government from her freshman year, eventually becoming president as a senior. After earning her degree in English, Ellen worked in the commodities industry until the birth of her second child. She remained at home for several years in order to raise her children, eventually returning to work part-time in retail. Since then, Ellen has transitioned to the educational realm and currently manages student records for the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSSED) in Highland Park, Illinois.

Ellen lives in Buffalo Grove with her husband A.J. whom she met while attending Barat. She has a daughter, Ginny (24), who has just earned her Masters degree from LSU and a son, Jay (22) attending school in Bloomington-Normal.