

For 16 summers and counting, Bart O'Brien (MSIA 1981) and his wife, Barbara, have generously hosted the Tepper Summer Wine Tasting Reception at their 40-acre Napa Valley winery, O'Brien Estate. The annual event allows current Tepper students to meet and mingle with local alumni during their internships, something the O'Briens are pleased to help make possible.

"It's wonderful to get everyone together," said O'Brien, an Alumni Board member from 2011 to 2017. He and his wife also are long-time annual donors to the school.

"When I came to Carnegie, I said, 'I want this to be my intellectual home base. I want to be part of the community here; I want to come back here for my reunions; and I want to give back to the school.' This is really important to me."

A successful serial entrepreneur, O'Brien started his first company at age 18, subcontracting construction jobs for a summer employer. After college, the Florida native applied, sight unseen, to only one graduate school to help him realize his ambitions: Carnegie Mellon University's Graduate School of Industrial Administration, now the Tepper School of Business. Along with its top rank and quantitative focus, it was unique in offering the entrepreneurship studies he was seeking.

"I loved the rigorous, mathematical approach to business," he recalled, as well as the personal atmosphere. "I really enjoyed Friday afternoons where you'd get to talk to your professors and get to know them as people," as well as the chance to develop closer connections with classmates. O'Brien still marvels at how an assistant dean leased him and a few friends his house while on sabbatical.

O'Brien particularly highlights learning from entrepreneurship professor Jack Thorne, who was "instrumental"; accounting professors Yuji Ijiri and Katherine Schipper; and the Management

Game, with "no one right answer." The influence of his Tepper education has remained with him throughout his career. After graduation, O'Brien spent his early years honing his sales ability, complementing his more quantitative education — a move he found incredibly valuable. "I realized if I want to be an entrepreneur, there are only two jobs in a startup company," he explained. "You either make it or you sell it. And it turns out, if you can't sell it, it's not worth making."

At age 29 and with Tepper entrepreneurship lessons vivid in his mind — particularly, "If you don't do it before age 30, the probability is low" — O'Brien struck out on his own. He still remembers, as a student, gazing up at the Baker Hall stained glass with Andrew Carnegie's famous quote, "My heart is in the work." It's what he has lived, with Barbara's support, as an exciting roller coaster, in which he's "made and lost fortunes," including co-founding Calico Commerce, which went public with an initial market capitalization of \$1.8 billion.

In 2000, he and Barbara fulfilled a dream when they purchased O'Brien Estate, today a fully integrated, award-winning winery with more than 3,000 club subscribers. Their wines celebrate the couple's loving relationship through romantic names and personal poetry on the labels. As a board member, O'Brien also dedicates time to BioIncept, a biotechnology firm with a novel approach to immune disorders, transplant rejection, and other inflammatory disease.

And he remains committed to his alma mater, as he was from the first. "I'm a citizen of this school," he stressed. —

HOME BASE

BART O'BRIEN (MSIA 1981)
OWNER, O'BRIEN FAMILY VINEYARDS
NAPA, CALIFORNIA



CLASS NOTES

CLASS OF 2007

MATT CIUCA (MBA 2007) and Mary Angela Moutoussis were married in Hot Springs, Virginia, and Athens, Greece, in July 2019. Among the attendees were fellow Tepper graduates **MIKE WALTON** (MBA 2007) and **ELIZABETH URISH** (MBA 2008), **MATT MCKENZIE** (MBA 2007, MSCF 2007), **ADRIAN MAHOLCHIC** (MBA 2007), **MARK THOMAS** (MBA 2007), **RAJAN SINGH** (E 2002, MBA 2007), **HOSNI SHADID** (MBA 2009), **COLIN RANEY** (MBA 2007), **SIMON ROSENBERG** (MBA 2007), **ERIC SCHWARTE** (MBA 2007), **ANDY GROHMAN** (MBA 2007), **BRIAN COLE** (MBA 2007), **KOLA ADESANOYA** (MBA 2007), **TAM NITHIVASIN** (MBA 2007), and **EMEKA IWUCHUKWU** (MBA 2008). Matt is Director of Strategy for Aurora Flight Sciences, a subsidiary of Boeing. Mary Angela is a Senior Manager in the Digital Transformation Practice at EY. The two reside in Washington, D.C.

MUDIT GARG (MBA 2007) joined learning management software firm D2L as the Vice President of Rev Ops and Global Channel Sales. He's loving the series B SFO entrepreneurial spirit. And the best part — he lost 15 pounds and, for once, is going regularly to the gym. His new mantra: Stay fit, stay happy.

CLASS OF 2008

MIKE SHERWIN (MBA 2008) recently joined the full-time faculty of the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh as an Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering.

CLASS OF 2009

CYANNE DEMCHAK (MBA 2009, HNZ 2009) was recently promoted to Chief Innovation Officer of Cigna Medical Group, Cigna's primary care and multi-specialty group in Phoenix, Arizona. She continues to reside in Nashville, Tennessee, and has more respect for her classmates who became consultants, as she travels back and forth to Phoenix.

ROB DEMISCH (MBA 2009), his wife Maria Zade, and their 4-year-old son Will Demisch are proud to announce the birth of Layla Jane Demisch. Layla was born at 5 pounds, 13 ounces on April 4, 2019.

In 2019, **ANTONIO LOFFREDA-MANCINELLI** (MBA 2009) launched Watch It Work, an innovative job advertising platform that allows companies to visually show their next job. By creating customized videos highlighting job opportunities, employer brands, and the overall employee value proposition, Watch It Work delivers information to job seekers in a modern way that is uniquely engaging on any platform or device.

CLASS OF 2010

KAMAL VED (MBA 2010) recently joined brainbot technologies AG as an Executive Director leading the Raiden Network project. Raiden is a second layer off-chain payment protocol for the Ethereum blockchain. Raiden is part of the new Web 3.0 technology stack that is creating a trustless peer-to-peer framework which will spawn new business models with no centralized intermediaries.

CLASS OF 2011

CAROLYN MADDEN DUNCAN (MBA 2011) joined Amazon Web Services in September 2019 as Senior Business Development Manager for Applied AI Services. Carolyn guides customers and partners globally on opportunities to expand their businesses and capabilities with the power of AWS's machine learning services. She is excited to join the wider Tepper community at Amazon — and stay connected as she meets with customers and teams around the world. Carolyn and her family continue to be based in the New York City area.

In February, **ANDREA KAVOUKLIS** (MBA 2011) started a new role as Vice President within Wells Fargo's Enterprise Complaints Management Office.

On Nov. 30, 2019, **KARIITHI KILEMI** (MBA 2011) got married to Swagateeka Panigrahy. A group of classmates from the Tepper classes of 2011 and 2012 joined Kariithi and Teeka for a lovely ceremony that included Indian and African traditions in a stunning destination: the Diani Beach area south of Mombasa. Attendees included **FRED JACQUET** (MBA 2011), **GAURAV BHARDWAJ** (MBA 2011), **PANIGRAHY, KILEMI, KOFFI MESSAN** (MBA 2011), **JUAN PABLO RUBIANO-GROOT** (MBA 2011).

DANIELLE SCHMITT (MBA 2011) is excited to announce the birth of her darling (identical) twin girls, Olivia Rose Schmitt and Sophia Grace Schmitt. Born in London on Dec. 31, they made it just in time to be a tax deduction for 2019. Both mom and babies are doing really well, and jointly getting to figure out how to get some sleep.

JONATHAN ZACHARIAS (MBA 2011) is now Vice President of Sales and Operations for Sun Communities, providing affordable, non-subsidized housing to over 100,000 guests and residents across the U.S. and Canada. Jonathan, Erin, and Isabella relocated to the Detroit area in spring 2020 and are enjoying to being closer to family in Canada and Ohio.

CLASS OF 2012

SANTIAGO URIBE MONTOYA (MBA 2012) is happy to announce that AppSheet, the company he has been a part of for the past five years, has been acquired by Google. Starting in early January, he joined Google Cloud as a Senior Product Manager to continue the mission to democratize app development. Also, Nathalia Rodriguez Vega (HNZ 2012) and Santiago got a puppy in late 2019. His name is Otto Stern, in honor of the CMU Nobel laureate.

CLASS OF 2013

LUKE FALKEN (MBA 2013) and **AANCHAL FALKEN** (E 2011) have welcomed a baby daughter into the world on Feb. 11, 2020. They're thrilled to have their new addition and continue to live in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. Let him know if business or other travel brings you their way!

CLASS OF 2014

CHINMAYI BHAVANISHANKAR (MBA 2014) is celebrating one year of wedded bliss! They got married twice last year (to each other, thankfully) — once in India on Jan. 1 and the following spring (officially) in Seattle, Washington.

FERGIE CHEN (MBA 2014) and **JOE SMITH** (MBA 2015) got married on Sept. 7, 2019, at the scenic Olowalu House on the beautiful island of Maui, Hawaii. Fergie and Joe were first introduced by their mutual friend **MICHAEL ZHONG** (MBA 2015) at a hotpot lunch in Oakland. **PHIL SPENCER** (MBA 2014, HNZ 2015) gave a heartfelt speech at the wedding and surprised the couple with a Tepper Diversity Weekend Save the Date invite from several years ago that featured Fergie and Joe together. After their wedding, Joe started his own investment firm (Parti Pris Investment Partners), which aims to provide personalized investment solutions to financial advisers.

Callie Elizabeth Coox was born to **AMANDA (ZOOK) COOX** (MBA 2014) and Brian Coox on Oct. 14, 2019. They are so glad to welcome her to the family!

DAVID LUSTIG (MBA 2014) founded Village Funding, a community-driven regulation crowdfunding platform connecting entrepreneurs and investors with like interests. Pending regulatory approval, Village Funding is looking forward to a 2020 launch.

CLASS OF 2015

DAVID FELDMANN (MBA 2015) is driving customer acquisition and increasing revenues at award-winning startup Treatspace.

CLASS OF 2016

Tepper alumni and Swartz Fellows **NICK BARTEL** (MBA 2016) and **HAYDEN CARDIFF** (MBA 2016) raised an \$8 million series A round for their startup, Idelic. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Idelic leverages artificial intelligence and machine learning to help transportation fleets save time, money, and lives by predicting which drivers are most at risk for an accident. Total funding for the company is \$12 million.

KERA BARTLETT BINNS (MBA 2016) and Nat Binns proudly welcomed their first child, Conor Michael Binns, into their family last summer.