

# The NFI Future Leaders Class of 2018



March 2018

# Felipe Arevalo

Salmon Sales Director, Agrosuper



Felipe Arevalo has been with Agrosuper since 2015. Started as a Sales manager within the company and now is in charge of the Salmon Sales and operations .

Felipe received his bachelor's degree from Georgia State University both in Finance and International Business.

Making America great again one fish at a time. – *Felipe Arevalo*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Josh Austin

## Sales Operations Manager, High Liner Foods



Josh Austin splashed into the seafood world with High Liner Foods in 2016. He spent the previous 10 years in brand management in the footwear and toy industries.

Josh received his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire, where he and his wife first met. They live in the sticks of New Hampshire with their three month old daughter, Nora. Josh spends his free time racing mountain bikes, sailing and dabbling with photography.

Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen. - *John Steinbeck*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Nicholas Bahr

Western Regional Manager, Clear Springs Foods



Nicholas Bahr has been with Clear Springs Foods since 2015. Prior to joining Clear Springs, he worked with Rich's Food Service.

Nick received his bachelor and master of business degrees from Concordia University. He has 3 children. Nick enjoys Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, hiking, and spending time with his family.

"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty."

*– Thomas Jefferson*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Helio Barbosa

## National Account Manager, Rich Products Corporation



Helio Barbosa is National Account Manager for Rich Products Corporation responsible for the Walmart account. Prior to joining RPC, he held account management roles with ConAgra Brands and Dr Pepper Snapple Group.

Helio received his bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and will complete his Executive MBA this Spring. He and his wife enjoy traveling and playing golf.

"The mark of a great player is in his ability to come back. The great champions have all come back from defeat." – *Sam Snead*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Nick Briganti

Financial and Inventory Analyst, Euclid Fish Company



Nick joined the Euclid Fish team in 2013, gaining experience in the seafood industry as an intern during his college breaks. He officially accepted a full-time position upon graduation in 2016.

Nick is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. After spending some time working on the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta, he returned to Ohio. He is an avid fisherman, and enjoys golfing with his friends.

"It's not the will to win that matters- everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters."  
– Paul "Bear" Bryant



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Christopher Brown

## General Manger, Garbo Lobster



Chris has been with Garbo since May 2017, but in seafood his whole life. As the son of a commercial fishermen, Chris has experienced the whole supply chain working his way from a lumper/deckhand up to management.

Chris received his bachelor's degree from Pace University, and his Master's Degrees (MBA, MHA) from Salve Regina University. Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and son, golf and working out.

Great things in business are never done by one person. They're don't by a team of people.

– *Steve Jobs*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Amanda Buckle

Staff Writer, SeafoodNews.com, Urner Barry



Amanda Buckle has been with Urner Barry since 2017. Prior to joining Urner Barry, she was with Mic and International Business Times.

Amanda received her bachelor's degree from Monmouth University. She and her husband Tom live in New Jersey with their beloved pitbull mix, Shea. Amanda enjoys traveling and antiquing.

"Don't plan too much. It may not come out right." – *Tommy Wiseau*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Jillian Clark

## Regional Sales Manager, Costco Team, Trident Seafoods



Jillian joined the Trident Seafoods family in 2009 and has been with the company nearly nine years handling a variety of roles including: procurement, marketing & training, and sales.

Jillian received her bachelor's degree from Pacific Lutheran University in 2008 with a major in Marketing Management and minor in Psychology. She also completed the Food Industry Executive Program at USC Marshall School of Business in September 2016. She has a French Bulldog puppy named Mia Joy and enjoys outdoor activities, traveling, and spending time with family & friends.

Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game. – *Babe Ruth*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Jose Joaquin Cuevas

Seafood Manager , Quirch Foods Puerto Rico



Jose J. Cuevas has been with Quirch Food Since 2008 Prior to joining Quirch foods, He was a plant manager at JR Seafood Co.

Jose received her Bachelor's degree from Loyola University . He has two Children.

Jose enjoys discovering new places, music, dancing, cooking and spending time with the family.

"Cuando sientas que ya no puedes más,  
Inténtalo una vez más." - *Papa Francisco*



Future Leaders Class of 2018

# Kendall Dunn

## Supply Chain Manager, King and Prince Seafood



Kendall Dunn has been with King and Prince Seafood since 2012. Prior to joining K&P, he was with Hanes Brands Inc, IBM and Shaw Industries.

Kendall received his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. He and his wife Laura have one child. Kendall enjoys spending time with family and friends, being at or on the water and cooking/eating.

In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing – *Theodore Roosevelt*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# PHIL Eddy

## Director of Domestic Purchasing and Aquaculture



Phil has been with Beacon Fisheries Inc. since 2008. His business career started in residential and commercial construction.

Phil received his Associates degree from Bob Jones University. He and his wife Heather enjoy spending time in the outdoors with their 2 children.

Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm – *Winston Churchill*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Kevin Freile

Sales and Purchasing, Mark Foods Inc.



Kevin joined Mark Foods in April 2017 as a salesman, purchasing and marketing assistant, and import logistics coordinator.

After graduating from Catholic University in Washington, DC with a degree in Politics, Kevin worked on Capitol Hill and on several campaigns. He enjoys golf, hunting, fishing, and cooking.

Only dead fish go with the flow - *Malcolm Muggeridge*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# MJ Gimbar

## Director of Purchasing, Fortune Fish & Gourmet



MJ Gimbar is Director of Purchasing at Fortune Fish & Gourmet. Before that, he worked various roles in the seafood industry, including retail management and wholesale sales.

MJ received his bachelor's degree from High Point University. He and his wife recently moved to Chicago from the East Coast. MJ enjoys traveling and eating great food.

A thought, even a possibility, can shatter and transform us. – *Friedrich Nietzsche*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Kevin Harrington

National Sales Manager, ProFish Americas, LLC



Kevin Harrington began his career with ProFish Americas in 2014. Before joining the management team at ProFish, Kevin worked in Boston for Great Eastern Seafood and also in Vermont with Tropical Aquaculture Products. Kevin was in the golf industry before changing to a career in the seafood industry.

Kevin graduated from Methodist College in North Carolina. He likes to be active playing golf, and attending live music as well as sporting events.

Who ever is happy will make others happy too. - *Anne Frank*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Jessi Hoskins

## Senior Total Quality Manager, Darden Restaurants



Jessi Hoskins joined Darden in 2013. She is responsible for managing the safety and quality of the seafood category for all Darden brands. Prior to joining Darden, she worked for ConAgra Foods in R&D in Omaha, NE.

Jessi received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska. She resides in Orlando, FL, where she enjoys going to concerts, the beach and kayaking.

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it. - *Maya Angelou*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Chris Jones

## Hatchery Operations Manager, Pacific Seafood



Chris Jones has been with Pacific Seafood since 2007. Prior to joining Pacific, he was with Core Partners.

Chris will complete his bachelor's degree in Accounting from Ashford University this September. He and his wife Amanda have four children. Chris enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family,

There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still. - *FDR*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Kane Kendall

Vice President of Sales, Raw Seafoods, Inc.



Kane Kendall has been with Raw Seafoods since 2004.

Kane received his bachelor's degree from UMASS – Dartmouth in Business/Marketing. He & his wife have two boys & enjoy spending time outdoors.

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs... - *Rudyard Kipling*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Michael Kohan

Seafood Technical Director, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute



Michael Kohan has worked with ASMI since 2015. Prior to joining ASMI, she worked as a biologist with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a contract fisheries researcher with NOAA.

Michael received her bachelor's in science degree from the University of Washington and her master's in fisheries science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Ocean Sciences. She was born in Alaska and enjoys fishing, hunting, and exploring what Alaska has to offer.

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? - *Mary Oliver*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Taylor Laitsch

Communications & Marketing Manager, Seattle Fish Co.



Taylor has been with Seattle Fish Company since 2017. She is responsible for all marketing awareness efforts and creating educational content around seafood as a healthy, sustainable source of protein.

Taylor Laitsch originally hails from Milwaukee but now calls the city of Kansas City, Missouri, home. When she's not working, she can be found cooking up a new recipe in her kitchen, staying active with her lab mix, Ellie, or traveling.

Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm. – *Winston Churchill*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Eric Lam

Vice President, Tai Foong USA



Eric joined TFUSA, a family-owned three generation business, 2 years ago. Prior to that, Eric worked in the finance industry at a hedge fund in both New York City and Hong Kong.

Eric received his bachelor degree at Carnegie Mellon University. He and his wife have a baby boy. Eric enjoys spending time outdoors and discovering new places.

The separation is in the preparation. – *Russell Wilson*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Ryan Laurent

## Regional Director - Atlantic, Preferred Freezer Services



Ryan has been with Preferred Freezer Services since 2014. Prior to joining PFS, he served as the Director of Intermodal and Warehousing at Command Transportation.

Ryan grew up in Michigan and received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He currently lives in Atlanta, is an avid golfer, traveler, MSU and Detroit sports fan, and proud uncle of three.

When doing something you have to do becomes doing something you want to do, that's when you have something special. – *Unknown*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Devon Levy

## Director of Marketing, Tampa Maid Foods



Devon Levy has been with Tampa Maid Foods since 2011. Prior to joining Tampa Maid, she worked as a Brand Strategist for Sweetbay Supermarket in the Florida market.

Devon received her bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. She and her husband Eric have two children and one grandchild. Devon enjoys boating, walking on the beach and spending time with her family and friends.

Failure has to be an option...No important endeavor that required innovation was done without risk. - *James Cameron, Filmmaker*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Tony Lezniak

Production Manager, Fortune Fish & Gourmet



Tony Lezniak is production manager at Fortune Fish & Gourmet. He has worked for Fortune for 4 years and been around the company and seafood for 15 years.

Tony worked at restaurants before joining Fortune, working his way up from dishwashing to floor manager. Tony was born in Chicago and grew up in River Grove, IL.

Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.  
– *Oscar Wilde*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Victoria Li

## Sales Administrator, Orca Bay Foods, LLC



Victoria Li has been with Orca Bay Foods since 2015. Prior to joining Orca Bay, she was with Abimar Foods located in Abilene, TX and Construction Benefit Audit Corp in Kansas City, MO.

Victoria received her bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and is currently a MBA student at Syracuse University. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and paper crafts.

Be like the bamboo, the higher you grow the deeper you bow. - *Chinese Proverb*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Shaun Lowcock

## Business Development Manager, PNW, Americold



Shaun Lowcock has been with Americold since 2017. Prior to joining Americold, he was with Global Logistics Management, Pathfinder Logistics and served as a planning commissioner with the City of Milwaukie.

Shaun received his BA in International Relations from Trent University(Canada), and his MBA in Sustainable Business from Marylhurst University. He enjoys skiing, surfing, ice hockey and spending time with his wife Dena, their 4 children, and 2 Irish Wolfhounds.

Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors where there were only walls - *Joseph Campbell*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Alexandra Massaro

Project Manager- Business Development, Slade Gorton & Co., Inc.



Alex Massaro has been with Slade Gorton & Co., Inc. since 2016. Prior to joining Slade Gorton she worked in marketing at Swarovski.

Alex received her bachelor's degree in psychology and communications from the University of New Hampshire in 2014. She currently lives in Boston and enjoys reading, exercising, and spending time with her family and friends.

"I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it." *-Thomas Jefferson*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Devan Meserve

## Marketing Manager, Global Aquaculture Alliance



Devan has been with GAA since early 2017. Prior to joining GAA, she worked in Communications at a PR, marketing, and creative agency. She also spent a few years teaching English in Korea.

Devan received her bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University. She lives on the Seacoast of NH and enjoys hot yoga, live music, and travel.

The most important decision you make is to be in a good mood. – *Voltaire*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Ben Moore

Training Specialist & Internship Program Manager,  
Pacific Seafood



Ben Moore joined Pacific Seafood in 2015, after developing a diverse skillset while working in various Operations, Management, and HR/Training roles within wholesale distribution.

Currently, Ben is a part of Pacific Seafood's Human Resources team, where he develops and delivers training content, manages the company internship program, develops relationships with local colleges/community organizations and supports continuous improvement initiatives within the organization.

Becoming is better than being. - *Carol Dweck*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Laurel Raffan

## Director, Market Development, Open Blue Cobia



Laurel Raffan has been with Open Blue Cobia since 2013 and is currently the Director of Market Development within North America.

Laurel received her Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Western Ontario. She enjoys spending time with her family in her home country of Canada and also being an active competitive horseback rider.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.  
– *Henry Ford*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Kevin Reardon

Sr. Manager, Global Planning, Bumble Bee Seafoods



Kevin Reardon has been with Bumble Bee since 2005. He is responsible for master data management and forecasting sales within the supply chain.

Kevin received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from San Diego State University. He enjoys DIY projects around his house and camping with his wife Memory and their dog Barley.

Going to the woods is going home. – *John Muir*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Jessica Roberts

## Assistant Administrative Director, Penn Cove Shellfish



Jessica Roberts has been with Penn Cove Shellfish since July 2015, where she is involved in many aspects of running a small business, from Sales, Procurement, A/P and Logistics. Prior to working at Penn Cove Shellfish, she worked as a substitute teacher in Hawaii where her husband was stationed in the U.S. Navy.

Jessica has a Master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from the University of Phoenix. Having lived in Washington, Hawaii, and California due to the Navy, Jessica and her husband, Erick, have finally placed their roots in Oak Harbor, on Whidbey Island in Washington, where they live with their three children. Jessica enjoys running and spending time with her family.

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. – *Winston S. Churchill*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Jessica Rumore

Manager, Financial Planning & Business Intelligence  
High Liner Foods



Jessica Rumore has been with High Liner Foods since 2016. Prior to joining HLF, she held a variety of financial positions at Home Market Foods and Boston Beer Company.

Jessica received her bachelor's degree from Fairfield University and MBA from Northeastern University. She and her husband John spend most of their spare time chasing their two toddlers, Mason and Weston, but she loves yoga, boating and spending time with family and friends as well.

Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence. — *Vince Lombardi*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Mike Shimek

Director IT Operations, Trident Seafoods Corporation



Mike Shimek has been with Trident Seafoods since 2002. Prior to joining Trident Seafoods, he worked for 7 years at Alaska Airlines.

He and his wife Andrea have three children. He enjoys golf, skiing and coaching his sons tournament baseball team.

Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.  
– *Babe Ruth*



Future Leaders Class of 2018

# Terry Stachowiak

Director, Seafood Procurement, Rich Products (SeaPak)



Terry has been with SeaPak since 1996, and has held several positions in Production Planning, and Logistics with the company before becoming Director of Seafood Procurement in 2017. He previously worked for a cold storage/shrimp processing facility in Brownsville, TX for 8 yrs.

Terry received his bachelor's degree from University of Texas-Brownsville. He and his wife Monique have three children. Terry enjoys fishing along the Texas gulf coast, and watching his kids compete in high school athletics.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

– *Benjamin Franklin*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Emily Stenson

## Chief Administrative Officer, ProFish International

Emily Stenson has been with ProFish since 2014. Prior to ProFish, Emily worked at Arctic Storm Management Group for four years.



Emily received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington. She and her husband, Derek, enjoy spending time with their dog and their family. Emily enjoys being active and traveling in her free time.

"You are the one that possesses the keys to your being. You carry the passport to your own happiness." – *Diane von Furstenberg*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Matthew Venezuela

Director of Operations, Bristol Seafood



Matthew Venezuela has been with Bristol Seafood since 2017. Prior to joining Bristol, he ran a peanut processing facility for one of the largest in-shell peanut manufacturers in the United States. Previously, he oversaw a RTE food facility with over 250 employees and more than 150 product items.

Matthew received his BA from Hampden-Sydney College and his MBA from Southern New Hampshire University. He lives in Maine with his wife and two boys.

The price of inaction is far greater than the cost of making a mistake – *Meister Eckhart*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Kyle Webb

## Director of Finance, East Coast Seafood Group



Kyle Webb has been with East Coast Seafood Group since 2017. Prior to joining East Coast, he was the Director of Finance for Campofrio Food Group America, a European cured meats manufacturer.

Kyle is a CPA and has an MBA from Virginia Commonwealth University. He and his wife Allison are new to the Boston area, and are enjoying exploring the city with their dog Drama.

There are two kinds of people in the world. Those that can only learn from their own mistakes, and those that can learn from other peoples' mistakes. Don't be the first kind. – *Kyle's Grandpa, origin unknown*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Lisa Wehrman

## Category Manager, Finfish, US Foods



Lisa Wehrman has been with US Foods since 2014. Prior to joining US Foods, she was with Sears for 2 years and with Target for 10 years.

Lisa received her bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University. She and her husband Matthew have two children and two dogs. Lisa enjoys photography, traveling, and spending time with her family.

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover."

- *Mark Twain*

**Future Leaders Class of 2018**



# Cliff White

## Executive Editor, SeafoodSource



Cliff has worked at SeafoodSource, a leading online source for global seafood industry news, trends, expo coverage and business resources, since 2016. Previously, he was the senior business reporter at the McClatchy-owned Centre Daily Times in State College, Pennsylvania.

SeafoodSource is a part of Diversified Communications, which like Cliff, is based in Portland, Maine. Cliff is married and recently became a father. He enjoys all sports and most books.

"Journalists are like dogs; whenever anything moves, they begin to bark.

- *Arthur Schopenhauer*



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**

# Julia Ying

President, Dalian Meihe Foodstuff Co. Ltd.



Julia Ying is co-founder of Dalian Meihe Foodstuff Co. since 2000. She worked for China Great Wall Industry Dalian Branch as Seafood Trade Dept. Manager 1997-2000, and business staff in Liaoning Foodstuff Imp. & Exp. Co. 1995-1997.

Julia received her bachelor's degree from Dalian Foreign Languages University. She and her husband William founded the company together, and enjoy spending time together in work and with their lovely son.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.



**Future Leaders Class of 2018**