The NFI Future Leaders Class of 2020
Ed Anthes-Washburn

Executive Director, New Bedford Port Authority

In 2010, Ed Washburn joined the Port of New Bedford, MA, the nation’s highest-grossing commercial fishing port. In 2015, he became the Executive Director. The Port of New Bedford is home to 350 homeported fishing vessels and over 150 fishing vessels that call on the port and is an international processing hub.

Ed received his BS from Cornell University and MS from UMass-Boston. He lives in New Bedford with his wife, Pamela, and two children.

“Critics build nothing.”
- Robert Moses
Richard Barry
President, Pier Fish Company, Inc.

Richard has been with Pier Fish since 2011.

Richard received his bachelor’s degree in business from The Catholic University of America, where he was a member of the football team. Richard lives in South Boston, Mass. He enjoys golfing with his friends and fishing offshore any chance he gets.

“The quality of your life is the quality of your relationships.”
- Tony Robbins
Justin Basile has been with Hofseth North America since 2018. Prior to working with Hofseth, he was an Account Coordinator for US Foods.

Justin received his Associates degree from Truman College Chicago. He is an avid traveler who enjoys exploring new cities and landscapes all over the US and abroad.

“Before I do anything I ask myself, ‘Would an idiot do that?’ and if the answer is yes, I do not do that thing.”
- Dwight Schrute
Jon has been part of the Seafood Expo marketing team since joining Diversified Communications in 2014.

Jon grew up just outside of Portland, ME and moved back there after earning his bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Outside of work, Jon enjoys backpacking in new places, fishing and being outside with his dog Hank.

“Talent sets the floor, character sets the ceiling.”
- Bill Belichick

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Jon Bass
Marketing Manager, Diversified Communications
Alex Brown has worked for Raw Seafoods for the past 3 years. Prior to working at Raw Seafoods he worked on fishing boats, seafood retail counters and wholesalers.

Alex received his bachelor degree from Coastal Carolina University. He and his wife Kelsey are expecting their first baby boy this Spring. Alex enjoys fishing, surfing, snowboarding and spending as much time in the outdoors as possible.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined."
-Henry David Thoreau
Mel Carrasquillo has had the pleasure of serving as National Sales for ULTCO since 2017. Prior to joining ULTCO, Mel was Regional Brands Manager for Santa Monica Seafood. She also introduced the Skuna Bay Brand to the US Market as their Western Regional Manager and was Program Director for the Aquarium of the Pacific’s Seafood for the Future Program.

Mel’s favorite thing about the seafood industry is the endless pursuit of knowledge which has allowed her to travel to some of the most beautiful places on the planet. She is grateful that it has given her the opportunity to represent farmers, fishermen & companies demonstrating true leadership & innovation in growing the sustainable seafood space. She lives in San Clemente, California with her fiancé Brett. She enjoys hosting dinner parties, camping off the grid, traveling & dining out.

“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change “ – Charles Darwin
David Castagne
Director of Product Management, The Fishin’ Company

David Castagne has been with Fishin’ Co since 2014. Prior to joining Fishin’, he was with the Assistant Men’s Soccer Coach at his alma mater John Brown University.

David received his bachelor's degree & MBA from John Brown University. David and his wife Carine enjoy visiting family in their home countries of Barbados and Brazil respectively.

“It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.”
– Winston Churchill
Elizabeth Collins
Senior Marketing Manager, Rich Products Corporation

Elizabeth Collins is the Senior Marketing Manager for Rich Products, and she currently oversees the Consumer Brands Division’s Private Branded business. Prior to joining the Rich’s Marketing team in 2013, Elizabeth was employed by King & Prince Seafood in Brunswick, Georgia.

Elizabeth, her husband Calvin, and their daughter Quinn reside on St. Simons Island, GA. She earned her M.B.A. degree with a concentration in Marketing in 2015 from Brenau University and a B.B.A, Finance degree in 2009 from The University of Georgia, Terry School of Business.

“You cannot always control what goes on outside. But you can always control what goes on inside.”
- Wayne Dyer
Chris is a true believer in sustainability within seafood aquaculture and understands the importance of educating customers and partners. With 15+ years of industry experience, Chris has worked in various sectors of the industry including food service, retail, wholesale and manufacturing.

Chris currently lives in Colorado with his wife and two dogs. They love the outdoors and enjoy activities like camping and golf.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you – Matt 7:12
Liz Cuozzo has been with Umer Barry since 2017. Prior to joining Umer Barry, Liz worked in the finance and security industry in New York and Chicago.

Liz received her bachelor’s degree from Loyola University Maryland. She enjoys spending time at the beach, playing paddle tennis and live music.

“Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations.”
- Unknown
Daniel Drazba
Sales, National Coverage, Eastern Fish Co LLC

Daniel Drazba has been with EFCo since 2015. Prior to joining EFCo, he was classically trained under a Master French Chef in Charleston, SC to later become an Executive Chef in Miami, FL.

Daniel studied Biology at Loyola University in New Orleans before taking interest as a Chef. He and his dog, Chill, have driven across country twice. Daniel enjoys travelling and giving cooking classes to friends and family.

“Why are we faced with problems? So we can figure out the solutions.”
– Tony Robinson

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Allison Flores has been with Tampa Maid Foods since 2017. Previously, she worked at Kraft Food Ingredients as an R&D scientist specializing in cheese powders.

Allison is a Gator graduate of the University of Florida. After UF, she interned at America’s Test Kitchen before returning to the lab. She loves traveling to new places, trying new foods, and doing escape rooms with her husband.

“A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men.”
– Willy Wonka (Roald Dahl)
Amber L. Flowers

Quality Assurance Manager, The Fishin’ Company

Amber Flowers has been with The Fishin’ Company since January 2018. Before joining Fishin’, she was with Tyson Foods in food safety and quality assurance in their production facilities.

Amber received her bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas. Amber enjoys reading, listening to music, and spending time with her friends and family.

“No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.”
– Theodore Roosevelt
Shawn Ford has been with Fortune since 2016. Prior to joining Fortune, he was with Coastal Seafoods for 13 years.

Shawn pursued degrees in computer science and mathematics at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife have one daughter. Shawn enjoys spending time in the woods and hanging out with his dog.

‘We are stuck with technology when what we really want is just stuff that works”
– Douglas Adams
Joseph Galletti is the 4th generation of his family involved in the seafood industry. His goal is to help create innovation in the industry so that seafood will continue to thrive as a safe and reliable source of food.

Joseph received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Oregon. He and his Wife, Erika, have a beautiful daughter. Joseph enjoys watching movies and spending time with his family.

“The most important thing in the world is family and love.”
- John Wooden
Shannon Gilreath has been with Rich Products for over 16 years. An energetic brand marketer with a passion for building brands and supporting the development of marketing leaders. Currently responsible for driving growth across Rich’s Protein categories inclusive of the SeaPak Brand in Retail and Foodservice.

Shannon graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelors of Science in Business and received her MBA from Georgia Southern University. Shannon is married to Stephen and they love spending time as a family raising two beautiful, happy children, Kathleen (6) and James (3). For fun Shannon enjoys all aspects of the island life, residing in Saint Simons Island, Georgia.

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail’
– Ralph Waldo Emerson
Peter Hansen
Frozen Sales Team Manager, Pacific Seafood Group

Peter has been with Pacific Seafood since 2012. He has direct management oversight of all frozen inventory holding, as well as coordination with Pacific’s robust fleet of fishing vessels.

Peter received his bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University. He and his wife Ashleigh have three children and live in Portland, Oregon. Peter spends the majority of his time on the water fishing when he isn’t in the office.

“The best way to predict the future is to create it”
- Peter Drucker
Greg Hanson has been with Bornstein Seafoods since 2017. Prior to joining Bornstein Seafoods, Greg was with the public accounting firm Ernst & Young.

Greg received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Washington University and his Masters degree in accounting from the University of Washington. He and his wife have three children; Miles (5), Cam (3) and Cara (6 months). Greg spends his free time with his family and running, recently completing his second ultra-marathon at a snail's pace.

“Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can’t, you’re right”
– Henry Ford
Jason Harrington has been with Gorton’s since 2001. His team is responsible for product quality, food safety, and regulatory programs.

Jason received his bachelor’s degree from Saint Michael’s College. He and his wife Melissa have three children. Jason enjoys spending time with his family, coaching his children’s sports teams, and playing recreational hockey.

“You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take”.
- Wayne Gretzky
Mitch Harrison
Business Development Manager, Chicken of the Sea

Mitch Harrison has been with COS since 2019. Prior to joining COS, he was with Southern Glazer Wine and Spirits.

Mitch has 12 years of sales and management experience in the broadline and wholesale industry. He and his wife Kristen have two children. Mitch enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family.

“Don’t count the days, make the days count.”
- Muhammad Ali
Colton Hayden
Regional Sales Manager, Retail Sales, Trident Seafoods Corp.

Colton has been with Trident Seafoods since June 2014, and it is his first job out of School. Prior to being a sales manager, Colton worked as a Boat Accounting Intern, Customer Service Representative, and Retail Sales Coordinator at Trident.

Colton Received two bachelor degrees from Washington State University in Psychology and Criminal Justice. He is getting married August 15th, 2020, and enjoys snowboarding, playing golf, hunting and spending time with family and friends.

“Don’t give up, don’t ever give up.”
- Jim Valvano
Jessica Holmes has been with Stavis Seafoods since 2006. Prior to joining Stavis, Jessica was the operations manager at The Lobster Pound in Manomet, Plymouth, Ma.

Jessica fell in love with the service industry while getting her degree from AIFL. After graduation, her career journey took her from restaurants and service to operations and sales management. In her free time, you will find Jessica being creative, exercising or riding her motorcycle. Her and her husband Bill love hiking, live music and traveling.

"Everything is Figureoutable"
- Marie Forleo
Andrew Jenssen

Export Sales Manager, Pacific Seafood Group

Andrew Jenssen has been with Pacific Seafood since 2016. Prior to joining Pacific, he started as a commercial fisherman in Alaska and worked his way up in the industry to various sales positions.

Andrew received his bachelor's degree from California Lutheran University. He and his girlfriend currently live in Portland, OR with their dog Arlo. Andrew enjoys snowboarding, rock-climbing, and traveling.

“Opportunity does not knock, it presents itself when you beat down the door.”
- Kyle Chandler
Meaghen Kraft has been with Orca Bay Foods, formerly Odyssey Foods, for 10 years. Prior to joining OBF, she managed a local coffee shop.

Meaghen received her bachelor’s degree in Professional & Technical Communications from the University of Montana. She grew up in Montana and moved to Seattle after graduation in 2008. She enjoys travelling, good food and exploring the PNW with her dog, Ellie.

“Whatever you are, try to be a good one.”
- William Makepeace Thackeray
Don Larisey
Director, Continuous Improvement, Fortune Fish & Gourmet

Don Larisey has been with Fortune Fish since 2018. Prior to joining Fortune, he was with The Chefs Warehouse and MT Food Service in Chicago.

Don received his Bachelor’s and Masters (MBA) degrees from Illinois State University. Don and his wife Ashley have two children, Ava and Paddy. Don enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering on charity and development groups in his community.

“Good is the enemy of Great.”
- Jim Collins
Alyssa has been with Slade Gorton since 2016. Since joining Slade Gorton she has worked in the fresh purchasing and QA departments.

Alyssa received her bachelor’s degree in environmental analysis & policy from Boston University in 2017 and is studying for her MBA from Fitchburg State University. Alyssa enjoys skiing, hiking, reading and spending time with friends & 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.”
Zach Owens
Category Manager, King & Prince Seafood

Zach has been with King & Prince Seafood since 2015. Prior to joining K&P, he worked as an account manager at Answer Carolina, Inc.

Zach received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. He and his wife reside in St. Simons, GA with their 2 dogs and cat. Zach enjoys playing golf, traveling, gardening, and South Carolina Gamecock sports.

“Follow your passion. Stay true to yourself. Never follow someone else's path. Unless, you're in the woods, and you're lost, and you see a path. By all means, you should follow that.”

- Ellen DeGeneres
Romina Pederzoli has been with Quirch Foods since 2017. She started as a Process Engineer and 2 years later she became a seafood buyer. Prior to Quirch Foods, she worked for Walmart.

Romina received her Industrial Engineer bachelor's degree from University of Miami. She is currently doing her MS in Clinical Nutrition. Romina enjoys being active, eating healthy, dancing, and spending time with her family.

“Let the food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.”
- Hippocrates
Laura Peterson has been with Bumble Bee since 2014. Prior to joining Bumble Bee, she worked for 12 years in the supply chain at Becton Dickinson.

Laura received her bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University. She and her husband Rob live in San Diego, CA with their dog Molly. Laura enjoys hiking, camping, and backpacking and is passionate about nature and the outdoors.

“Success occurs when opportunity meets preparation.”
– Zig Ziglar
Chris Sandagato
Southeast Regional Sales Manager, Verlasso Salmon

Chris has been with Verlasso Salmon for nearly a year and a half, focusing his time and efforts building awareness and growth around sustainable aquaculture. His young career in the seafood industry began with Fortune Fish & Gourmet nearly 9 years ago.

Chris received an Associates Degree from the Culinary Institute of America in 2011. He is married to his lovely wife Sara, currently residing in Charlotte, North Carolina. His passions outside of seafood involve golf, cooking and craft beer.

“It’s not about perfection; it’s about the joy of striving”
- Thomas Keller
Clinton Scharen has been with Trident Seafoods since 2014. Prior to joining Trident, he worked in public accounting focusing on closely held manufacturing businesses.

Clinton received his bachelor's degree from Linfield College. He and his wife live in Seattle, Washington with their dog. Clinton enjoys being active and spending time with his family.

“Your limitation – it’s only your imagination”
Jason Thibodeau has been with Open Blue for 2 years and before that worked for Ducktrap River of Maine as a Regional Sales Manager.

Jason received his bachelor’s degree from University of Southern Maine where he also played baseball and basketball. I enjoy outdoor activities and spending time with my family.

“Oh, the things you can find, if you don’t stay behind”
- Dr Seuss
Ron Viola
Sales Manager, Lineage Logistics

Ron is part of the rapidly expanding Lineage Logistics organization that acquired Preferred Freezer Services in June of 2019, en route to becoming the largest temperature controlled logistics company in the world. Ron has 8 years working in cold storage and more than 15 years working in the logistics industry.

Ron received his bachelor’s degree from Siena College and went on to earn an MBA through the Jack Welch Management Institute at Strayer University. Ron and his wife Sene have two children. Favorite hobbies include baseball, yoga and coaching his children.

“A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. He is not an outsider in our business. He is part of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so.”

- Mahatma Gandhi
Heidi Weeks  
Account Executive, SeafoodSource, Diversified Communications

Heidi has been part of the SeafoodSource sales team with Diversified Communications since 2015. Prior to this, she held integral roles in the partnership marketing and merchandising departments for the Maine retailer, L.L. Bean. She also worked in the investment industry.

Heidi received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Hampshire. She, her husband William, and daughter Ruth enjoy living in Maine, and interests include skiing, golfing, farming, and hiking.

“It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”
– Unknown

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Andrew Wilson joined the Baader family shortly after high school. For the past 18+ years he has gained vast knowledge about seafood processing equipment and customer relations.

Andrew has lived in Washington state since 1995 after growing up in southern California. He has 2 children and loves spending time with them and his girlfriend, Margot. He loves geology, cooking, and backpacking.

“If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.”
- Mark Twain