FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR
THE OHIO FAMILY IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jaime Blair

Jaime Blair came to the Summit County Juvenile Court as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in 2008. She has a passion to advocate for children and victims and has been privileged to chair the Summit County Juvenile Court Human Trafficking Committee as well as co-chair the Direct Services Committee of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking. Jaime assisted in creating the juvenile court's policy on human trafficking and coordinated the development of Restore Court, Ohio's only certified specialized docket for juvenile human trafficking victims. Jaime graduated magna cum laude from The University of Akron School of Law in 2013 and currently serves as Lead Judicial Attorney for Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

Michael Byun, MPA

Michael Byun has worked for over 20 years on health disparities, social justice, and immigrant and refugee issues. His efforts focus on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and other underserved communities. Currently Byun is the chief executive officer for Akron's Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA) the largest health and social services agency in Ohio and an important advocacy voice for AAPIs in the region. In addition to his leadership role at ASIA, Byun serves on local, state and national boards and advisory committees. He is board co-chair for National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development and founding member for the national AIM for Equity. Locally, he is on the board for the Conservancy for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, advisory board for the Gay Community Endowment Fund, and board member of the Well. He served on the board of the Pastoral Counseling Services and the advisory council for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Byun holds an appointment with Ohio's Governor John Kasich as the chair of the Ohio AAPI Advisory Council. In May of 2014, he was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's AAPI Advisory Council. Byun frequently presents and speaks locally and nationally. He is a 2015 German Marshall Fund Fellow and 2009-10 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow. He received his masters of public policy and administration from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Stephanie Carothers

Stephanie Carothers has been with the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services for sixteen years. She is currently the Deputy Director of the Family and Adults Services division, a position she has held for seven years. In addition to overseeing a staff

of 140 individuals who determine eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and Medicaid, Stephanie is responsible for maintaining the federally mandated accuracy and timeliness rates for SNAP. She has chaired the county's First Things First Professional Development Advisory Committee for two years and is also the current chair of the Urban 14 committee, a Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) initiative which represents the fourteen largest metro regions in a six-state area. Stephanie has been a Summit County Ohio representative for this committee since 2011.

Danny Chand, professor of political science at Kent State University

Areas of Specialization

- Public Policy and Policy Implementation
- Immigration policy
- Interest Groups and Nonprofit Advocacy

Research Interests

Daniel E. Chand received his Ph.D. in Public Policy in the Policy Management specialization at the University of Arkansas and has a masters in Political Science with an emphasis in Community Development from Illinois State University. His primary areas of interests are nonprofit advocacy and policy implementation, specifically relating to immigration policy. His current research projects include studies of discretionary enforcement of immigration policy by Immigration Judges and ICE officers and the adoption of restrictive congressional immigration policies. He has published numerous articles on the implementation of immigration policy and the nonprofit advocacy.

Before earning his Ph.D., he designed and implemented community development projects and program evaluations in both the United States and abroad. From 2006 through 2008, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Zambia.

Joe Cimperman, President

Prior to joining Global Cleveland as its top executive, Joe Cimperman served 18 years on Cleveland City Council, where he distinguished himself as a champion of the diverse peoples and cultures of Greater Cleveland. Joe, an immigrant's son, grew up in a Slovenian-speaking household on East 74th Street in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood of Cleveland. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University, where he was elected president of the student body. In 1997, he began the first of seven terms on Cleveland City Council. His diverse ward included the businesses and corporate

offices of downtown as well as the cultures of Asiatown, Tremont, Ohio City and the old neighborhood. Joe, a German Marshall Fellow, assumed the leadership of Global Cleveland in April of 2016. He and his wife, Nora, live in Ohio City with their two young children.

Richard Herman – Immigration Lawyer, Ohio, Michigan

Passionate about helping immigrants, their families, and their employers, Richard is a nationally-known immigration lawyer and the founder of Herman Legal Group: a skilled and compassionate group of professional immigration attorneys with offices in Cleveland, Columbus, Dearborn-Detroit, Akron- Canton, Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati and Youngstown. Founded in 1995, the Herman Legal Group serves clients in all 50 states and around the world.

An outspoken national advocate for immigrants, Richard continues raising the issues that matter the most for the immigrant community, whether this relates to reforming immigration laws, or to civil rights. Through his writing, speaking engagements and social media, Richard continues to raise awareness on the importance of immigration reform and immigrant rights. A pillar of his campaign is to educate the mainstream community on the assets that immigrants bring to America: talent, entrepreneurship, innovation, work ethic, family values and patriotism. The bottom line? Immigrants make America stronger! Passionate about the advantages of immigrants in America's job force, Richard co-authored the internationally-acclaimed book, Immigrant, Inc. — Why Immigrant Entrepreneurs Are Driving the New Economy.

Richard is the co-founder of Go Global Cleveland, a nonprofit organization that encourages the Northeast Ohio region to adopt a global outlook and to embrace cross-cultural business alliances and global connectivity.

Richard is also the co-founder of TiE-Ohio, a chapter of The Immigrant Entrepreneurs Association based in Silicon Valley. This chapter helps encourage immigrant, international, and minority entrepreneurs to launch businesses in the Northeast Ohio region.

Mayor Daniel Horrigan

Daniel Horrigan brings sixteen years of distinguished public service to his mayoral position as the 62nd Mayor of the City of Akron on January 1, 2016. His experience in elected office and family legacy rooted in Akron's North Hill has fueled his vision to move the city forward into the 21st century.

During Mayor Horrigan's first year in office, he led a variety of initiatives yielding several successes including: rebuilding relationships with the United States EPA by meeting with the Director of the Water Enforcement Division the second week of his administration; and working closely with FirstMerit Corporation as the acquisition by Huntington Bancshares was announced. Mayor also followed through on a recommendation by the Blue Ribbon Task Force to create legislation, which was unanimously approved, to amend Charter Section 104 – which gives Mayor the ability to appoint a Human Resources Director. Other successes for Mayor Horrigan during his first year in office included: hosting six town hall meetings within the community and meeting with every high school senior class within the Akron Public Schools, implementing cost-saving reform of retiree supplemental health benefits, securing approval of First Consent Decree Amendment resulting in $56.7 million in CSO savings; securing nationally competitive $5 million TIGER grant to redevelop Main Street and leading successful effort to bring Stark State Community College campus to Akron.

Additionally, Mayor was recognized by Cleveland Magazine's Community Leader Power 100 – List of most influential leaders in NEO. He joined the coalition of Mayors across the U.S. in the Mayors Against Illegal Guns; and in keeping with the Mayor's vision of having a more healthful community, he partnered with Akron Children's Hospital-Akron Marathon Race Series, County of Summit and Summit County Public Health to launch a city-wide 100 Million Steps Walking Challenge. With the Mayor serving as the "hare" for the City of Akron team, participants logged in a total of 476,173,811 steps within three weeks of the challenge.

As Mayor Horrigan more vividly develops his vision for the City, he will continue to articulate his administration's top priorities as: Education, income and health.

Mayor values - efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and fiscal responsibility - are the foundational leadership qualities he has relied upon throughout his career. He will continue to take fresh looks at every department to ensure that taxpayers are receiving high quality public services in the most cost-effective, efficient way. He strongly believes the city's future rests on engaged leadership to provide good jobs and strong neighborhoods.

Mayor Horrigan has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Kent State University and a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Akron.

Alexandra Hull, Attorney & Counselor at Law

I have been licensed in the state of Ohio since November 6th, 1989 and have been in private practice since 1992.

During that time I have engaged in the general practice of law with a significant portion of my time devoted to private child custody cases and child protective (CSB) cases in Juvenile Court.

It is my goal to provide professional, affordable, honest help to my clients whether in court or as an advisor and counselor. I am based in Summit County but will appear in courts in most adjacent counties.

I particularly enjoy helping people avoid court whenever possible and I always take the issue of legal expenses into consideration when I advise a client whether or not to litigate a particular issue.

Elizabeth Knowles

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law
Biography

Elizabeth M. Knowles joined the Akron Law faculty in 2016. Professor Knowles supervises the Immigration & Human Rights Law Clinic and teaches Asylum and Refugee Law. Her current research explores access to justice issues for detained non-citizens and holistic approaches to advocating for ultra-vulnerable clients in removal proceedings.

Prior to joining Akron Law, Professor Knowles served as Executive Director of the American Bar Association's Immigration Justice Project (IJP). She supervised the Legal Orientation Program at the Otay Mesa Detention Center on the U.S. - Mexico Border and the IJP's Pro Bono Lawyer Training Program. She implemented and directed the National Qualified Representative program for the San Diego region, serving along with her legal team as government appointed counsel for mentally incompetent detainees in immigration removal proceedings. Professor Knowles created and directed the Immigration Removal Defense Clinic at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, training students to represent detained, asylum-seekers in immigration court. Professor Knowles also served as a Commissioner on the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women and chaired the Commission's Domestic Violence Committee.

Professor Knowles is a member of the California State Bar, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the American Constitution Society. She earned her B.A. in Fine Arts from San Diego State University and her J.D. and certificate in Law and Social Justice from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Mary Meg McCarthy
Executive Director, Heartland Alliance National Immigrant Justice Center

Mary Meg is the executive director of Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), one of the nation's foremost immigrant and human rights advocacy organizations. Under Mary Meg's leadership, NIJC has become a leading organization dedicated to advancing justice for immigrants. Working with a pro bono network of 1,500 attorneys, NIJC provides counsel and representation to approximately 10,000 low income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers each year. NIJC's legal services inform its advocacy, litigation and educational initiatives to promote human rights locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

An expert in immigration law, Mary Meg has testified before Congress and is often quoted in major news outlets such as MSNBC, The New York Times, and the Chicago Tribune. As an active member of the American Bar Association, Mary Meg chairs its Commission on Immigration. She is also a member of The Chicago Network, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the Chicago Bar Association, among others. Prior to joining NIJC, Mary Meg practiced civil litigation and was an NIJC pro bono attorney. Earlier in her career she worked in local communities in Chile to help safeguard the rights of individuals under a dictatorship.

Mary Meg has been honored with several awards including: the Chicago Bar Association Justice John Paul Stevens Award (October 2015), the American Constitution Society Chicago Lawyer Chapter Ruth Goldman Award (July 2015), Chicago Inn of Court 2015 Don Hubert Public Service Award, the Pax Christi 2013 Teacher of Peace Award, and the Damen Award from Loyola University Chicago (June 2015).

Erich Merkle, Ph.D., Ed.S. NCSP

Dr. Merkle is a specialist in comprehensive school psychological services within the educational arena for individuals ranging from infancy through adulthood, currently at Akron Public Schools, Akron, Ohio. Within the school psychology specialty, Dr. Merkle has concentrated his work on consultation, evaluation, and intervention for students with severe social-emotional and behavioral health needs that have resulted in substantial educational disciplinary sanctioning, expulsion, placement into residential facilities, or the judicial system. Dr. Merkle serves as a central office consultant on disability law and education, crisis situations, and general pupil personnel administration. Beyond these activities, Dr. Merkle provides professional development to educational personnel and social service agencies on myriad school psychological topics.

Dr. Merkle has committed himself towards lifelong scholarship, accumulating over 700 hours of collegiate coursework, including a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in psychology from Heidelberg University, a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in community

counseling, a Master of Arts (M.A.) in human development/family studies, an Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) in PreK-12 educational administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in school psychology and psychology during his tenure as a graduate student at Kent State University. He holds educational licensure as both a school psychologist and PreK-12 educational administrator as well as national certification as a school psychologist (NCSP). In addition, Dr. Merkle previously served as a clinical mental health counselor with clinical competencies in marital/family therapy and comprehensive mental health assessment. Dr. Merkle commits himself to service within the professions of psychology and education, serving on the governance boards of numerous professional and community agencies, including the Ohio Psychological Association (OPA) Board of Directors and the Ohio School Psychologists Association (OSPA) Executive Board, where he was also the Association's president in 2014-15. In 2017, Dr. Merkle was awarded the Public Sector Psychologist of the Year recognition by the Ohio Psychological Association.

Tania Nemer, Immigration Senior Attorney, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland

With a concentration in litigation, Tania T. Nemer graduated with distinction from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2007. She first served as a student attorney at the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office in Michigan and later joined the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office in Ohio. In 2008, Ms. Nemer joined McGinty, Hilow & Spellacy Co. LPA, where she served of counsel focusing her practice on criminal and immigration law.

Currently Ms. Nemer is the Immigration Senior Attorney at Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is a non profit organization which offers "low Bono" services for individuals living in the 8 county diocese.

Dr. Loi Dang-Nguyen

Dr. Loi Dang-Nguyen has been employed by the Akron Public Schools for the past 22 years. She has been a teacher, a middle school assistant principal, an elementary principal, and is currently an ESL (English as a Second Language) and World Languages learning specialist. She works in many capacities to ensure that English Learners (ELs) receive the educational support and resources to help them acquire English and achieve academic success. She is married to Dr. Troy Nguyen, and they have two children, Tyler Nguyen and Lauren Nguyen.

As a former refugee, she understands the challenges of immigrating to a new country and is aware of the language barriers that refugee families encounter that may hinder their adjustment into a new country and culture. Her parents escaped Vietnam in 1975 and

arrived in Akron, Ohio, with 12 children. They were sponsored by The Chapel on Fir Hill under the pastorship of Rev. Dr. David Burnham. As refugees, her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Dang, started the Vietnamese Church in Akron, and her mother volunteered her time helping other Vietnamese refugees with translations. Her parents believe that "earning an education is the key to success in America" and encouraged all 12 children to focus on their educations. Because of this strong belief in education, all 12 children graduated from college and 10 of them have earned their Master's, Ph.D., or M.D. With her parents' encouragement and her family's extreme gratefulness for the support they have received from The Chapel, Akron Public Schools, and the city of Akron, Dr. Dang-Nguyen and her siblings continue to volunteer locally and are committed to helping refugees and serving the community in many different roles.

Dr. Dang-Nguyen is a lifelong learner and proud graduate of Akron Public Schools. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, a Master of Arts in Elementary Administration, and Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Akron. She was Akron Public Schools' 2002 District Teacher of the Year and Portage Path's Building Teacher of the Year. In 2016, she presented at the Ohio School Board Association Conference in Columbus on English learners (ELs) and educational access. In addition, she has served on numerous local panels and presented topics such as family engagement, educational challenges and strategies to support English learners, and the refugee experience.

Parminder Parmar, associate professor of human development and family studies at Penn State Worthington Scranton

Parminder Parmar, associate professor of human development and family studies at Penn State Worthington Scranton, was recently recognized for her professional achievements and contributions in the field of Home Science at the First Alumni Meet of the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), in Ludhiana.

She was recognized during a special event at the First Alumni Meet, which coincided with the Golden Jublee celebration of the PAU, which was attended by many distinguished PAU alumni, including PAU's Board of Management, deans and directors from international universities and state and national institutes, and other prestigious alumni.

Parmar received her master's degree in child development from Punjab Agricultural University (India) and her doctorate in human development from the University of Connecticut. She has taught human development at three different universities for last 33 years, including at Penn State Worthington Scranton, where she was recently recognized for 10 years of service.

Her interests are in studying early childhood development, child rearing practices, and parenting across cultures, with her research focusing on the importance of play and learning

in early childhood, and parents' cultural beliefs about what is most important for the development of young children. She is especially interested in the role of parenting in the development across lifespan and across cultures.

She is presently coordinating the international "Teachers' Acceptance Rejection Project" (TARP) in more than a dozen countries and has presented her research at many national and international academic and research organizations.

Parmar regularly contributes books and research papers to various universities in India and has received several awards at Penn State Worthington Scranton, including the 2003 David and Joyce Mack Tressler Award for Professional Development; the 2005 PSWS Advisory Board Award for Teaching; the 2007 Dr. Richard J and Sally Matthews Award for Scholarly Activity; and the 2012 K. Bruce Sherbine Penn State Proud Award.

Christopher J. (C.J.) Peters, Dean and Professor of Law
The University of Akron School of Law

Peters graduated cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School, where he was associate editor of the Michigan Law Review his final year. He earned his B.A. summa cum laude in history from Amherst College.

He has a wealth of teaching experience at law schools including U-M, Chicago, Loyola Los Angeles, Toledo and Wayne State. He has been teaching at Baltimore Law since 2009, and in 2015, he was appointed associate dean for faculty scholarship.

Peters has been published widely. He is the author of "A Matter of Dispute: Morality, Democracy, and Law" (Oxford University Press, 2011). His writings have been featured in law reviews at such schools as Harvard, Columbia, Yale, UCLA, Oklahoma, BYU and Northwestern.

To help make an Akron Law degree even more affordable—and to honor the legacy of his late grandfather, a longtime Michigan trial judge—Peters has established the Judge Donald T. Anderson Endowed Scholarship for the benefit of Akron Law students. Peters said he hopes its recipients will be inspired, as he has been, by Judge Ander-son's lifelong dedication to public service and concern for the practical impact of the law, particularly on society's most vulnerable members.

Attorney Farhad Sethna – practicing law since 1991

Attorney Farhad Sethna has practiced law for over 25 years. Since 1996, he has also been an adjunct professor of Immigration Law at the University of Akron, School of Law, in Akron, Ohio, where he wrote and used his own immigration textbook. Attorney Sethna is a frequent speaker at Continuing Legal Education and professional development seminars on various immigration-related topics. His practice is limited to immigration and small business. With offices in Cuyahoga Falls, Akron and New Philadelphia, Ohio, Attorney Sethna represents clients in all types of immigration cases. A private pilot, Farhad hopes one day to have flown to all of Ohio's 88 county airports!

Madhu Sharma – International Institute of Akron
Director of Immigration Services

Madhu N. Sharma has served as Director of Immigrant Services since August 2015. She is a human rights attorney practicing and teaching in the field of migration law for 18 years. Certified by the State Bar of California, she has represented victims of state sponsored torture, human trafficking, and crime in obtaining U.S. immigration benefits, from countries spanning over four continents.

In 2011, she was awarded a Congressional Certificate of Honor for representing victims in the first federal alien smuggling case to result in visa issuance for undocumented individuals. Madhu brings her indispensable expertise and devotion to the plight of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers to representing the most vulnerable members of the Akron community.

Susan Tucker, M.S.W., L.I.S.W.-S., ACSW
Community Outreach Director, Summit County Domestic Relations Court

Ms. Tucker has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from the University of Akron and a Masters in Clinical Social Work from the Ohio State University. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker, and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Ms. Tucker worked within the Child Welfare system for many years, with Summit County Children Services, both as an employee and as a volunteer. In the past she provided individual, marital and family counseling with adults and children in private practice at Family Visitation & Mediation Services.

Ms. Tucker has many years of experience as a community educator and public speaker. She has developed a variety of community education initiatives in parenting, abuse prevention, life skills training and in-home parent support programs. She has served on task forces for violence prevention, community domestic violence response, early childhood education and violent young children. She has worked in community relations

and media relations for both Summit County Children Services and at the Summit County Domestic Relations Court. At the court, she coordinates the Guardian ad Litem and Outside Court Mediators programs; developes, implements and evaluates all court parent education programs; provides family mediation services; writes grants; and supervises student interns.

She has served on planning committees for the Domestic Relations Court; Child Abuse/Family Awareness Steering Committee; Probate Court Adult Mediation Program; Attendance Mediation for the Akron Public Schools; the Six District Educational Compact Planning Board; Children's Hospital Women's Board; and other community programs and Boards. Ms. Tucker has served on the Board of Trustees of the local Children's Services agency, and is a current member of the advisory board for the Fatherhood Initiative in Summit County. Ms Tucker has also served as past coordinator and current session chair for the Child and Family Leadership Exchange and is a member of the Violence and Injury Prevention Committee and Summit For Kids Professional Day planning committee.

Ms. Tucker has received the Health Awareness Promotion award from the American Medical Association Alliance, the NASW Ohio Region II Lifetime Achievement award and the Sojourner Truth Woman of the Year Award for her work on bullying prevention and intervention.

Kara Ulmer
Director of World Relief Akron

Kara Ulmer is the Director of the World Relief Akron office, a refugee resettlement agency. Since opening the office in early 2015, the office has helped to resettle 260 refugees in our city. Prior to World Relief, Kara directed the international non-profit, Freedom Stones International, a social-enterprise working with over 100 human trafficking survivors or at risk artisans in Ghana, West Africa, Thailand, and Cambodia. Before beginning work in the community development field, Kara was Director of Strategic Planning & Analytics for Barclays Bank in England, one of the top 10 largest international banks. She currently lives in Akron, Ohio and has helped start local girls programs in the Summit Lake area through South Street Ministries.

President Matthew Wilson

Matthew Wilson was named the 17th President of The University of Akron by unanimous vote of The UA Board of Trustees on October 19, 2016. He had previously served as interim president since July 11, 2016. During his tenure, Wilson has consistently placed students first while emphasizing academic quality, innovation, research, flexibility in programming, globalization, and affordability.

Before his presidency, Wilson served as dean of The University of Akron School of Law from 2014-16. Under his leadership Akron Law, Wilson implemented innovative and creative programming together with increased opportunities for practical learning and international engagement. During his tenure, first year student enrollment jumped about 40 percent bucking a national trend of declining law school enrollment. During this same period, Akron Law received a first-time, tier-one overall ranking (2015 Above the Law), several Top 25 specialty rankings, and various national awards. Wilson also led planning, oversight and fundraising for a debt-free, $21 million comprehensive renovation of the law school facilities. In addition, Wilson personal coaches the ABA client counseling lawyering skills teams at the law school. His teams were regional champions in both 2016 and 2017, and advanced to the national championships where they took 3rd place in the nation in 2016 and 9th place in 2017.

International business and law

In addition to his administrative and academic background, President Wilson has more than 25 years of international experience in international business and law. Having entered academia in 2003, Wilson teaches and writes in the areas of international business law, intellectual property law, Japanese law as well as domestic and international dispute resolution.

President Wilson came to Akron from The University of Wyoming College of Law, where he served as associate dean of student affairs, associate dean of academic affairs, and professor of law from 2009-2014. Under his direct oversight of enrollment management, UW College of Law's enrollment rose 20 percent in 2014, with a corresponding improvement in rankings.

Tokyo campus

Prior to his time in Wyoming, President Wilson served as senior associate dean and general counsel for Temple University's comprehensive Japan campus in Tokyo. There he oversaw academic, administrative and legal matters related to all undergraduate, graduate, professional and non-degree programs. He also served as law professor and director of Temple's Law Program in Tokyo, where he implemented new marketing strategies, diversified curriculum offerings and modified program structures. During his six years in this post, the Law Program recorded a nearly four-fold increase in enrollment and revenues.

President Wilson has published articles and books both in English and Japanese since 2004, and most recently in 2016. In Japan, Wilson assisted the Japan Federation of Bar Associations with lawyer training for Japan's new jury trial system and served as an interviewer and external evaluator for the Japan – U.S. Fulbright Program. In South Korea, he held an appointment as an international scholar at Kyung Hee University Law School

in Seoul from 2011-14. In China, Wilson holds an honorary professorship at Henan University.

Academic achievements

President Wilson earned a B.S. in Political Science and a B.A. in Asian Studies, with a minor in Japanese, at the University of Utah in 1995, and a Juris Doctor at the Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1999. Wilson has also worked as an attorney in Florida, New Jersey, and Japan. In addition to his higher education and legal career, Wilson has worked for several companies in Japan including a hydrological and meteorological instruments manufacturer and electronics maker.

He resides in Hudson with his wife, Noriko, and two youngest sons. His oldest daughter lives in the Rocky Mountain region with her husband and two children, and his oldest son is currently doing volunteer missionary work in South Korea. In his spare time, Wilson plays basketball, baseball, golf, bowling, and tennis with his children and with Akron students.

Chief Magistrate Kelly McLaughlin

Kelly McLaughlin is the Chief Magistrate at Summit County Domestic Relations Court. Magistrate McLaughlin is a National Merit Scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated with honors from the Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1984. She graduated from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1987.

Magistrate McLaughlin entered private practice the same year, specializing in family and criminal law. She acted as a Guardian ad litem for hundreds of children in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court systems.

After 23 years in private practice, Magistrate McLaughlin joined the Court in 2010, first as a Judicial Attorney to the Honorable Carol J. Dezso, then as a magistrate. She was named Chief Magistrate in January of 2017.

Magistrate McLaughlin acts as a presenter for all of the Court's educational programs for litigants, and is the Court's liaison to the Child and Family Leadership Exchange, and Leadership Akron. She acts as a presenter for Justice Day and Court Day for those organizations. She is on the board of Akron Summit Community Action, Inc. She is a lifelong member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the country's oldest women's veterans' service organization, and serves as Director of the Judicial Branch of Government for Buckeye Girls State.

Magistrate McLaughlin lives in Akron in a century home which she is remodeling, one room at a time.