

CPA gains limelight for entrepreneurial spirit

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham resident Judith Trepeck, a partner with the Farmington Hills CPA firm of Rehmman Robson & Co., is a 1993 honoree of Michigan's Initiative for Entrepreneurial Excellence (EXCELI).

She was one of five women business owners honored.

EXCELI is funded in part by the Small Business Administration. Honorees received their awards for either making admirable progress or outstanding achievement in business or who have made significant contributions to other business owners.

Trepeck, a former president of The Greater Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Business Owners (NAWBO), received the most nominations, according to Chinyere Neale.

"Judith optimizes leadership," Neale said. "She is assertive, intelligent and professional without sacrificing warmth, encouragement and humor."

Trepeck said she was, regretfully, out of the country when the award was given. Friend Tamara Tuzzio accepted it for her.

"I'm really proud," Trepeck said modestly.

Trepeck was NAWBO president in 1990-91 and was responsible for bringing the EXCELI program to NAWBO, Neale said.

"As a past NAWBO president, she enthusiastically continues to support both NAWBO and EXCELI and has served as mentor both formally and informally to many project clients," Neale said. "She does all this while working with clients, playing a very active role in the many professional, and service organizations to which she belongs and maintaining a family."

They are husband David Adler, a Detroit business owner, and daughters Julie and Jennifer Trepeck and Meredith and Emily Adler.

Trepeck holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

"Ever ready to be of service, she served as project manager of the Michigan Alliance of Women Business Councils in its early development and has been a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business (1986) and was the first woman president of the Accountant's Guild," Neale said.

In recognition of the significance of women in business world today, the EXCELI program has been formed to help women start and grow their businesses.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the National Association of Women Business Owners, the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit, Deloitte & Touche, Butzel Long, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, Comerica Bank, Chrysler Corporation Fund, the Hudson-Webber Foundation, AT&T Commercial Markets, American Mobile Communications and the Detroit Edison Foundation.

Now entering its fourth year, EXCELI has served 1,200 women business owners and prospective women business owners.

NAWBO has 220 members locally and more than 10,000 nationally.

Dr. Jonathan P. Wiens of Farmington Hills was elected executive secretary-treasurer of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, a national organization that studies the replacement of missing teeth, jaws and other bone areas due to cancer, trauma or birth defects. Dr. Wiens, a prosthodontist who practices in West Bloomfield, is an associate professor in the department of prosthodontics at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. He's also on staff at Providence and Sinai hospitals in Southfield and Detroit respectively.



Judith Trepeck: She "optimizes leadership."

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Heather Brenke and Michael Lipp, both of Westland, and Lori Beale of Waterford were promoted to staff accountants at Follmer, Rudzewicz & Co., a Southfield accounting firm. All three joined the company in 1991 after graduating from Eastern Michigan University.

Katie LaForest of Farmington Hills was named sales representative for The Residences at TPC, a Dearborn residential community built around a Jack Nicklaus-designed Tournament Players Club of Michigan course. LaForest has five years' experience in new construction sales and has been with Bloomfield Hills-based Robertson Brothers group for one year.

Kevin R. Wixted of Troy has been named advertising and public relations director at La-Z-Boy Chair Co., Monroe. He's responsible for developing national consumer and retail advertising programs. He previously was vice president-account supervisor at Ross Roy Inc., a Detroit advertising agency.

Robert S. Staron was named president and CEO of Southfield-based Perini Building Co. Central U.S. Division, formerly R.E. Dailey & Co. He brings 25 years of management experience in the construction industry Staron to this position.

Dean Solden, chief financial officer of Westland Convescent Center, also was named CEO. He replaces David Shubow, who will stay on as president and chairman of the board. Solden's wife, Sari Shubow Solden, is a member of the center's board of directors.

Kimberlee A. Foster of Farmington Hills was promoted to associate at Plante & Moran, a Southfield-based accounting and management consulting firm. Foster joined the accounting staff in 1988 specializing in manufacturing and nonprofit organizations.

T.J. DiGiuseppe of Bloomfield Hills was named managing director of Hydro Aluminum Automotive Structures, Southfield, a newly created position. He had been vice president-marketing for Hydro Aluminum Bohn.

Donna L. Pelkey was named human resources vice president at Crittton Hospital, Rochester Hills. She previously was human resources director at St. Joseph's Mercy of Macomb Hospitals and Health Services.

Patrick M. O'Keefe of Troy has joined Birmingham-based Conway MacKenzie & Dunneley, which specializes in debt restructure counseling, reorganization and management of financially troubled companies in providing litigation support services as a partner. He brings 15 years of experience as a CPA and an entrepreneur in real estate development.

Ken Schweltzer is the new operations manager at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren, Westland. He transferred to the Westland Mall from Eastland Center in Harper Woods, where he was ground/building maintenance supervisor. He has more than 13 years of experience in shopping center management.

Cynthia B. Faulhaber of Beverly Hills is a member of the task force on pro bono and the program development and special projects committee for the government and public sector lawyer's division of the American Bar Association. She's an attorney in the Detroit office of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone.

Peggy Weber has joined Southfield-based HomeHealth Exchange, a private duty/home care agency, as director of marketing services. She's worked in crisis intervention and social services at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, and was a pharmaceutical marketer for Marion Merrell Dow, Kansas City.

Donald N. Hobley, manager of the Hobley Agency, Troy, was elected president of The Equitable Life Assurance Society's Old Guard, the company's association of agency managers. He previously was treasurer and a member of its executive committee. Since joining the company in 1967, Hobley has won the National Builder's Trophy and the Gold President's Trophy. He's earned the National Citation Award for nine consecutive years.

Kristine L. Gillespie of Northville has joined Troy-based MVP Communications, a full-service visual communications company, as account representative for the new business team. She previously was an account manager for post-production/animation houses and radio stations.

William A. Sankboll of Birmingham became a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers at the college's annual meeting and ceremony in Washington, D.C. Membership by invitation of the board of regents, includes 4,700 Fellows from the U.S. and Canada. The group's purpose is to improve standards of trial practice, administration of justice and professional ethics. Sankboll has been a practicing attorney in metro Detroit for 22 years.

Tina M. LaForest of Troy has joined Southfield-based Schmalz & Co., an accounting and consulting firm, as a member of the accounting services team. She earned an associate degree from Schoolcraft College, Livonia, and is studying sign language.

Attorneys Kelly K. Hunt of Livonia and Nancy L. Pastertz of Troy have joined The Law Firm, Chayet & Weiner, a Southfield firm located in Town Center.

James M. Mitchell of Royal Oak has joined Schmalz & Co., a Southfield accounting and consulting firm, as a staff accountant. He has two years of auditing experience.

Vice president account supervisors Marc Caroselli of Novi and David J. Rodriguez of Rochester Hills have new assignments at BBDO, a Southfield-based advertising agency. Caroselli was assigned to the truck group handling Dakota, full-line truck and Dodge brand. He joined the company in 1982 and previously was assigned to the car account group. Rodriguez was assigned to the car account group responsible for the In-trepid and the new JA car. He joined the company in 1990 and previously was assigned to the Ram pickup truck.

Paul H. Engle, formerly of Livonia, was promoted from executive vice president to president of Ohio-based Greer Steel. Engle now lives in New Philadelphia, Ohio, with his wife and two sons.

E. Lynne Risdon was promoted to assistant vice president of Franklin Bank, Southfield. She joined the bank in June as a commercial loan officer. She previously was a private banking officer at Comerica Bank.

Catherine Taperek was promoted to corporate vice president of D.O.C. Optics, Southfield. She joined the company in 1982 and has held various positions with the company, including store manager, special projects coordinator, franchise liaison, POS manager and director of training. She has a B.S. in business in training, POS systems and corporate planning.

Franklin Bank, Southfield, has added loan officers Judith M. Brownell and Corey A. Jacoby to its expanded residential lending staff. Before joining the bank in 1993, Brownell was an assistant banking officer at NBD. Jacoby joined the company in 1992 as a commercial loan review analyst.

Gregory D. Taylor of West Bloomfield was promoted from the accounting staff to associate at Plante & Moran, a Southfield-based accounting and management consulting firm. He joined the company in 1988 after graduating from Michigan State University. He specializes in manufacturing, contracting and municipalities.

Adam Smock was promoted from account services assistant to account executive at Stone, August, Baker, a Troy-based public relations firm. He joined the company in 1992 after an internship in the PR department. He's a 1992 graduate of Eastern Michigan University.

Lori Apple has joined Excellence Services, Inc., Farmington Hills, as director of medical services in the skilled care division. She previously worked in Florida as a clinical manager of residential care.

David D. Beane of Rochester Hills has joined the senior staff at General Motor's Buick City Assembly, Flint. He joined the company in 1973 as a production supervisor in Kansas City, Missouri and became assistant superintendent in 1980. He transferred to the Wentzville, Missouri assembly center in 1983 as superintendent of production and later was named general superintendent. In 1992, he was named assistant plant manager at the Hamtramck assembly center.

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