

Catching Up With . . .

Former Business Students at CHS

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight former student's accomplishments in the business field after getting their start by taking our courses here at West Chicago.

The Business Department offers a wide variety of courses ranging from computer based classes, to accounting, to work experience. All courses strive to be hands on, practical, and implement real world scenarios in the curriculum.

Students who enroll in business classes at West Chicago gain valuable skills that will benefit them in future high school courses, college,

and in the work place.

Below is a list of our current courses offerings:

- Computer Apps I
- Computer Apps II
- Computer Apps III
- Multimedia Design
- Website Production
- Introduction to Business
- Marketing/Sports Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT/BTI (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Gladys Proa Santana, Class of 2003

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Gladys Proa Santana—Class of 2003

Gladys Proa Santana graduated from Community High School in 2003. She attended Northern Illinois University graduating in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in English.

Gladys then attended law school at NIU graduating

in 2011 with her J.D. degree. She was admitted to practice law in Illinois and is currently an **Associate Attorney** at Meyers & Flowers, LLC in St. Charles. Her primary practice focuses on complex litigation involving failed medical devices, personal injury, and workers' compensation.

While a student at CHS Gladys took several business courses including **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Business Law, and Consumer Education.**

Gladys credits her business classes for her success in college and now in the legal field. She states, "Those business courses not only

provided me with fundamental skills that have become essential in today's job market, but also introduced me to subject matter that goes beyond standard high school curriculum. My curiosity to explore a career in law was cultivated during that high school Business Law class at CHS."

Ryan Krage—Class of 2009

Ryan Krage graduated from Community High School in 2009 and from the University of Illinois in May 2013 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Ryan currently is a **Software Engineer** at HomeAway in Austin, Texas. Prior to his current position he worked at IBM as a Software Engineer and while a student at U of I interned at InfoBright in their Software Development department.



During his time as a student at Community High School Ryan took several business courses focusing on his interest in computers including **Computer Applications, Desktop Publishing/Multimedia Design, and**

Website Production. He also served as a student Webmaster for multiple years and was a member of **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).**

Although he did not take any programming classes in high school, Ryan credits his high school business courses with “*piquing my interest with computers and introducing me to the basics of databases and web design.*”

He also credits business courses for helping with his technical writing skills which come in handy when he is writing online articles for his company.

Ryan’s future is bright in the software field, and the business department is proud of the start he got here at CHS.

Jeff Cisowski—Class of 2005

Jeff Cisowski is a proud 2005 graduate of Community High School. After high school he attended North Central College, graduating summa cum laude in 2009 with majors in Economics, Finance, and German. He then attended Chicago-Kent College of Law receiving his J.D. degree in 2012. Jeff is currently an **Associate Attorney** with a Naperville law firm representing community banks, developers, manufacturing companies, and business owners in a wide variety of disputes.

“Today I read, write, and speak for a living and I cannot thank Ms. Wirth and Ms. Blume enough for their support, kindness, and competency”

—Jeff Cisowski, Class of 2005

He also serves as an Adjunct Professor at his alma matter, North Central College.

While a student at CHS, Jeff took

Business Law and Marketing and was heavily involved in **FBLA**, which he still credits as one of the most positive and impactful educational experiences he had in high school. He states, “*FBLA helped me transfer my classroom skills (reading, writing, speaking) into real-life business scenarios.*”

As many former students have told us, the combination of business courses and involvement in FBLA have contributed to Jeff’s success since leaving West Chicago.

Paul Majchrowski—Class of 2003

Paul Majchrowski graduated from Community High School in 2003. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University in 2007 majoring in Mathematics and Psychology. Paul is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and works as a **Senior Actuarial Consultant** at CNA Insurance in Chicago. His current responsibilities include estimating future liabilities associated with Worker’s Compensation losses using various statistical techniques.

While a student at Community High School, Paul took several business courses including **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Introduction to Business, and Marketing.** He first learned about Actuarial Science from Ms. Blume while a student in her Computer Applications class.

Paul was also actively involved in **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** and competed at the state and national levels in the Entrepre-

neurship competition. Paul credits his college and career success to the skills he gained from business classes in high school and participation in FBLA stating:

“In today’s fast paced world, computer skills and business acumen are more important than ever. With the outstanding curriculum and FBLA opportunities, West Chicago’s business department offers many great ways to gain business skills and knowledge that will last a lifetime.”