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## Having Left Her Mark on Butler, Julie Schrader Bids Farewell

by: JOEY WOHLHIETER '05, MS '22 | December 1, 2021

The applicant was not someone for which he had high hopes.

It was early spring 2005 and Gary Beaulieu needed a program coordinator.

"I had reservations after looking at her resume," said Beaulieu, now senior director of the **Career and Professional Success** (CaPS) office at Butler University. "She had been in a lot of different jobs in a very short period of time."

With work as varied as selling insurance door-to-door and coordinating membership for the Carmel, Ind. Chamber of Commerce, Julie Schrader '01, MBA '08 had not found a good fit jobwise. Having graduated with an International Business degree, her career journey had its share of flops.

"We all fail," Schrader said. "Failure is an opportunity to learn and grow. My advice is to admit mistakes or failures quickly, learn from them, and strive to be better."

Pushing through disappointment and pursuing opportunities despite self-doubt—Schrader utilized these strengths in her job search. Through the years, she encouraged countless others to do the same.

“As a young Butler University student, [I] was struggling to find the right path,” said Nick Huang ’18, Product Marketing Manager at Google. “Julie undoubtedly helped me navigate the unknown and, more importantly, become a more confident me.”

That unknown in Schrader’s career trajectory had weighed on Beaulieu ahead of the interview. He needed to ask, “What really was going on?”

“A fair question,” Schrader replied, before sharing the jobs she had, what she had learned from each one, what she wanted to do differently in the career services office, and how her skillsets matched the position.

“Her answer was spot on,” Beaulieu said. “It’s exactly what we teach students [today].”

### **Schrader’s impact across campus**

After landing the job, the Monticello, Ind. native eventually rose to senior associate director of the office—formerly known as Internship and Career Services (ICS)—while simultaneously serving as director of career development for all Lacy School of Business (LSB) undergraduates.

Having earned a Butler MBA along the way (2008), Schrader advocated for the importance of career services.

“It is a vital part of the student experience,” Schrader said, “to provide confidence, coaching, and resources so our students can be as successful as possible.”

Chad Pingel ’16, Senior Program Manager at Google, explained Schrader’s campus contributions.

“Her impact as a Bulldog in supporting students, faculty, and staff is truly immeasurable,” Pingel said. “She helped to facilitate countless connections between aspiring students and professional job opportunities that have led to post-grad success for so many today.”

Measuring Schrader’s work produces staggering sums.

- Her leadership helped bring 36,000+ employers, graduate schools, governmental entities, and service organizations to Butler for recruitment both in person and through online channels such as Handshake.
- Her CaPS LSB team has recently guided 1,000+ undergrads through their career “Blueprint” toward graduation.
- She has met with hundreds of students and grads of all majors for advising.
- And she has served on dozens of committees across the University, including Staff Assembly, the Welcome to SportsTown pre-matriculation program, the Career Services Advisory Board, and a presidential search.



CaPS Senior Associate Director Julie Schrader (second from right) celebrating a staff member’s “Difference Maker” award.

“Julie’s impact has been enormous,” said Scott Peden, Executive Director of Student Well-being. “Her positivity, temperament, ability to bring different perspectives together, empathy and compassion for others, her willingness to be a voice for those that may not feel they have one, and her overall commitment to Butler and those she has worked with and served is truly unmatched.”

College of Communication Lecturer and Internship Director Scott Bridge ’82, MS ’91 saw Schrader as representing “the next generation of leaders” at Butler.

“Julie’s passion and sincerity for helping students will always stand out in my mind,” Bridge said. “I always thought Julie regarded her job as a calling. Her dedication was inspiring and made me work harder to keep up with the example she was setting.”

Career services is not limited to helping students and graduates. The office must also connect with an ever-growing pool of external recruiters—work that Schrader helped guide.

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EMILY FLANDERMEYER ’19  
SALES ENABLEMENT MANAGER AT ROCHE

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“As I moved into my role focused on employer relations, Julie was an invaluable model for how to be successful in this position,” said Jeremy Walthall, CaPS Associate Director of Employer Success. “She has an uncanny ability to build relationships with employers through a blend of professionalism, relatability, and authenticity that is a wonder to observe and difficult to match. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn this from her and hope I am able to master it like she has.”

Passion was not all that Schrader was known for—she was also a pleasure to be around according to Lorraine Vavul,

MBA, former CaPS Career Consultant and current On-Campus Student Employment and Federal Work Study Coordinator.

“[Julie’s] warm, friendly and optimistic disposition made those around her feel at ease whether they were students, alumni, employers, or members of the Indianapolis community,” Vavul said. “She always looked for the positives in everything she touched.”

Nick Huang, Google product marketing manager, experienced the same.

“With a huge smile, [Julie] welcomed me into the original [CaPS] office... [which] quickly became my second home,” Huang said. “Julie has an incredible ability to put others at ease and pinpoint what they need, even if they can’t verbalize it.”

### **Schrader’s impact within career services**

Due to increased recognition of career development needs for students and graduates across higher education, as well as a merger of two former offices, Schrader has helped Beaulieu oversee a team totaling 40 professional and student staff.

CaPS Career Advisor Andy Cassler ’07 remembers connecting with Schrader as his point of contact while interviewing to join the office.

“Throughout that process and every day since over the past six years, Julie has made me feel so welcomed and valued on this team and at Butler—and she’s loved by my family, too,” Cassler said. “I have turned to her for wisdom and guidance for many things.”



Fellow advisor Sierra Mathews, MS '21 noted Schrader's focus.

"During my time at Butler... Julie [has been] a tireless advocate and mentor for students and for me," said Matthews. "She has the best interest of every student, mentor, and colleague [at heart]."

Schrader's guidance extended to student employees.

"When I was [a CaPS] intern learning the ropes, she was quick to take me under her wing and provide support," said Emily Flandermeyer '19, Sales Enablement Manager at Roche. "She was and still is an amazing role model for me as a professional woman, modeling a balance of strength, intelligence, and kindness."



CaPS Senior Associate Director Julie Schrader (back row, third from left) celebrating the holidays with various career services staff and student workers.

Just as career services Senior Director Beaulieu came to appreciate Schrader's non-traditional job progression all those years ago, Rebecca VanVliet '19, Marketing and Communications Director at The International Center, said such an appreciation was a highlight of her time at Butler.

"From starting as [a CaPS] student assistant as a first-year, to now hiring Butler students to my own team, Julie's leadership in the career services office and her genuine care for everyone's unique career journeys was one of the best things about my Butler experience," said VanVliet. "I'm so grateful for her honest advice, her strong example, and every walk-and-talk meeting where I had to almost jog to keep up with her long legs!"

CaPS Career Advisor Mona Guirguis—one of only two current team members to precede Schrader's joining—praised the latter's personal attributes.

"She listens without judgement, speaks without prejudice, helps without entitlement, and understands without pretension... Not only that, but she is optimistic, a social spark, positive, an excellent motivator, encourager, ideas generator," Guirguis said. "I am thankful for the past 16 years in my life that I got to know her."

### **Encouraging student focus on well-being**

Not all learning takes place inside the classroom. Schrader has encouraged students to pursue multiple opportunities for growth.

“It is important to take your academics seriously, and it is equally important to enjoy other aspects of the social and cultural life while here,” Schrader said. “Take time to do fun things outside of schoolwork. Take advantage of the amazing offerings in Indianapolis while here.”

Extracurricular growth aligns with the University’s “BU Be Well” initiatives—a framework for students’ holistic development—of which career preparation and physical, mental, and emotional needs are emphasized.



“I have always admired Julie’s personal and professional commitment to wellbeing and championing BU Be Well with her peers and students,” said Josh Downing, Director of Recreation and Wellness. “She models the way in all aspects of her life and is truly someone all of us can look up to.”

Schrader, who as a student athlete scored 1,000 points over four years with the Butler women’s basketball team, even today teaches a cycling class.

“I’m a firm believer that wellness should be a priority,” Schrader said. “Students should not consider taking time for themselves as ‘selfish.’ The Health and Recreation Complex is a great facility for physical wellness to do on your own or in group fitness classes. Sometimes a walk for 20 minutes is all it takes to reduce some stress and feel ready to take on the day.

“I also encourage students to ask for help when they are struggling. It is a strength to know when we are not feeling like ourselves and could use the help of others.”

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Schrader’s favorite quote is from Theodore Roosevelt: “Comparison is the thief of joy.”

“It is easy to compare ourselves to others, especially when social media curates only highlighted portions of people’s lives,” Schrader said. “It is challenging to not get caught up in thinking we are inadequate, boring, unsuccessful, or other negative feelings. When we stop comparing ourselves to others and enjoy our own journey, it leads to more joy in life.

“Success is not a straight line. It is full of loops and twists and ups and downs that many don’t see.”

Schrader navigated such a path to the career services office all those years ago. It was more than just a new job.

“She said Butler had always been her home,” Beaulieu said, “and she was ready to return. That struck me. I knew we had the right person.”

### **Looking to honor Julie’s 16+ years at Butler University?**

Consider financially supporting career services programming at [butler.edu/gifts](https://butler.edu/gifts).

*Connect with Julie Schrader on LinkedIn.*