

## 40 Under 40

By: Staff

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Meet the Gulfshore's new guard, young professionals who have proven themselves in their careers and communities.

#### Heather Christie

Age 38

Position business coach, co-founder and president  
Company ActionCOACH

Why her After a successful career as a partner in a 100-attorney law firm in Chicago and later as a healthcare and energy lobbyist, Christie took on a business-coaching venture, ActionCOACH, to satisfy her entrepreneurial inclination. Although she still practices law some, she says, "Business coaching had me so inspired about how altruistic it is to help other people be successful. It was, in my mind, even a notch above what I could have contributed as an attorney."

Christie, who trains other business coaches around the world, won the 2007 Coaches Choice Award, which is given annually to one coach out of more than 1,000 in 24 countries.

Closer to home, she is on the board of directors for the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce and an American Heart Association volunteer. "My goal," she says, "is to leave everybody in a better place after I've met them."

Off the clock An avid reader and tennis player, she's also mom to three rescue cats.

—Jennifer Freihofer

#### Dr. Elizabeth Cosmai-Cintron

Age 35

Position cardiologist  
Company Florida Heart Associates

Why her Cosmai-Cintron's impressive list of credentials includes fellow in the American College of Cardiology, member of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and diplomate of the Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology. Sought for her expertise in heart health, she has been interviewed for local TV segments and has given presentations to communities, to employee groups and within the Lee County school system. "I'm really involved in women's issues, so many of my talks are focused on women and heart disease," she says.

Raised in Kissimmee, she received her M.D. from the University of Florida. During her residency at the University of Miami, she says, "We were exposed to a lot of cardiac patients, and I found them the most interesting because there were [so many options] to help them once they were diagnosed with a cardiac problem." She joined Florida Heart Associates in Fort Myers in 2005 and is now a partner.

Off the clock The mother of two young sons loves to run whenever she has free time. —Jennifer Freihofer

#### Kristen Coury

Age 39

Position producing artistic director and founder  
Company Gulfshore Playhouse

Why her Just four years ago, Coury was living the dream in New York City—producing and directing shows on Broadway for Walt Disney Theatrical Productions and Andrew Lloyd Webber's company. So what brought her to Naples?

"New York and I have always had a love-hate relationship," she explains. "When we traveled here on vacation, my



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husband and I discovered a wonderful community in the sun. We decided to move here lickety-split.” She founded Gulfshore Playhouse, which focuses on new works and classics and brings professionals in from around the country. The Playhouse does not yet have its own permanent space, so it works out of theaters in Sanibel, Fort Myers and Naples. The upcoming season will be its first with three shows, including one Florida premiere, Another Night Before Christmas.

Coury also started the Art Smart initiative, an in-classroom education program for students from first grade through high school that helps augment curricula through theater-based activities.

Off the clock She plays tennis and reads voraciously. —Jennifer Freihofer

### Jenny Craig

Age 35

Position wellness consultant

Employer self-employed

Why her She believes in turning frustration into understanding.

Craig, who gives corporate and individual wellness seminars and provides coaching, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. in psychology and master's in clinical social work. She came to realize that the more that she understood about herself, the better she could communicate with others. She has traveled to nine countries, immersing herself in their cultures, and has helped numerous people succeed by understanding how their words and emotions affect others.

Certified by the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, Craig also serves as chair of the Neapolitan chapter of the American Business Women's Association and is involved with the Naples Backyard History project. She's written Weighing Your Options, a book about how thoughts and emotions affect one's body, and she recently finished a similar book for children.

Off the clock Jenny likes to fish and scuba dive and tries to exercise every day. —Angela Voelker

### John DeAngelis

Age 39

Position owner and vice president

Company DeAngelis Diamond Construction

Why him A business owner, missionary and family man, DeAngelis credits the right market, hard work and, above all, God for his and his company's success. He and his partner, David Diamond, founded their construction company in 1996 based on Christian values. Its projects since then include Naples Dodge, its first project; 289 residential condominiums at Coconut Point, its largest project; and dozens of churches, its most rewarding projects.

As a board member of Transform Asia, DeAngelis works to rescue children and women from prostitution in Cambodia and feed hungry children. His family visited Cambodia twice to bring necessities and toys to children in need and is planning a third trip. He is also on the board of Kingdom Mobilization, which unites Christian ministries globally. Locally, DeAngelis and Diamond built Liberty Youth Ranch for orphaned children, and DeAngelis serves on the board.

Off the clock DeAngelis plays electric guitar and loves driving fast cars. He and his wife mentor young married couples through their church. —Cori Sue Morris

### Jennifer Figurelli

Age 38

Position vice president and senior trust officer

Company Comerica Bank

Why her Figurelli started out 10 years ago in the banking industry as an administrative assistant. Today, she's a vice president and senior trust officer, heading up Comerica Bank's trust department in Naples, and she's earned the bank's "Most Valuable Person" award two years in a row, in 2006 and 2007.

A certified trust and financial advisor and licensed life insurance agent, she helps people dealing with major life events, such as retirement, death or divorce. Figurelli, who has lived in Naples for more than 30 years, is involved with a number of local charities—not only through helping her clients in their planned giving, but also as a volunteer for the David Lawrence Foundation and Youth Haven Inc., among others.

"My passions are in healthcare and human services," she says, and her biggest reward is gaining the trust and appreciation of her clients.

Off the clock Figurelli enjoys visiting state and national parks, including the Everglades, Corkscrew Swamp and Koreshan State Historic Site. She and her family love minor league baseball games. —Cori Sue Morris

### Andrew "Drew" Fitzgerald

Age 38

Position president

Company Delisi Fitzgerald Inc.

Why him Fitzgerald went against the odds and launched an engineering and land planning firm in May 2006, just as the housing market started to tumble. He attributes the firm's success to its attention to clients, as well as resisting the urge to add a lot of staff and grow too quickly. "When things turned, we really banded together as a team," he says.

His company has taken on high-profile public and private projects in Southwest Florida, focusing on forming consensus partnerships with the community and government agencies. He worked with property owners and utilities representatives to plan for utilities needs along Burnt Store Road. He also works with stakeholders in the controversial Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource area in Lee County.

In addition, Fitzgerald is involved with the United Way of Lee County and is donating the civil engineering design work

for a 9,700-square-foot expansion.

Off the clock An avid diver, Fitzgerald was looking forward to taking his six-year-old daughter in August on her first snorkeling trip in the Keys. —Sarah Hoffman

### Liz Givens

Age 38

Position executive director

Employer NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Lee County Inc.

Why her Personal experience with depression fueled Givens' passion for helping people with mental illnesses, and she's accomplishing that by forging effective partnerships between public agencies and private businesses.

She moved NAMI into a social service alliance to open the Dunbar United Way Resource House last year, a one-stop shop that provides services from healthcare and grief counseling to reintegrating homeless people into society. She brought a crisis intervention program to local law enforcement to teach officers how to deal appropriately with mentally ill people. She's also a leader in the new Mental Health and Addictions Coalition of public agencies and local businesses, which is developing a strategic plan for addressing the community's needs.

The business partners have connections with legislators, and they bring "fresh ideas and approaches" to the challenges, she says. "Those in the field get burnt out and get used to being told 'no.' [The business partners] can really see it as something we can overcome."

Off the clock This Staten Island, N.Y., woman married a Florida native. "The deal was, I would say 'y'all' if my husband would say 'not for nothin','" she says with a laugh. —Jill Tyrer

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