

**MBAs CONTINUED**



mystery novels set on the Monterey Peninsula. Fun, romance, intrigue.”

**William Halal**, see PhD 1971.

**1978**

**Verlie Sligh**, of Ukiah, Calif., updates, “Assumed part ownership of a manufacturing company after I retired from my CPA practice in 2015.

“I was a Rotarian in the South Ukiah Club for 30 years and president in 2007–08. My club won every award we applied for and was declared the best small club in District 5130.”



**Alan Sopolak**, of New Hampshire, submits, “Retired. I continue to compose original instrumental songs, 18 in 2025. Check them out on Soundcloud at [haas.org/AlanSopolak](https://haas.org/AlanSopolak).”

**1979**

**Michael O’Donnell**, of Littleton, Colo., was ranked the No. 1 Top Scholar in the U.S. and No. 3 in the world for 2025 by ScholarGPS in the area of health promotion (the science of health-related lifestyle change), based on his publications over his lifetime. Highly Ranked Scholars are the most productive authors (by number of publications) whose works demonstrate exceptional impact (citations) and outstanding quality (h-index). These scholars hold a ScholarGPS® Rank within the top 0.05% in any given field, discipline, or specialty. An MBA, MPH, and PhD, O’Donnell co-authored *Health Promotion in*

*the Workplace*, the first reference text in the field, in 1983, now translated into four languages, updated in five editions, and still in publication. He launched *American Journal of Health Promotion*, the first peer-reviewed journal in the field, in 1986 and sold it to Sage in 2016.

**David Southern**, of San Francisco, writes, “Following publication of my book *Business Apocalypse and the Evolution of Today’s Organizations*, I have turned my attention toward investigating how colleges can best prepare students for today’s rapidly changing work world. Observing how Haas MBA programs are changing has been one useful source of information. But more directly, I’ve been elected a trustee of Antioch College, where I plan to apply my expertise to help promote an undergraduate education model designed to help students navigate today’s uncertain work environment. I welcome input and ideas from any Haas alumni who have a similar interest in the future of higher education ([davidl.southern@gmail.com](mailto:davidl.southern@gmail.com)).

“Beyond that, I am continuing my Berkeley connection by providing consulting services to two biopharma startups springing forth from campus labs.”

**1980**



**Michaela Rodeno**, of Napa, Calif., shares “In spite of the dedication and effort required to earn a Haas MBA, all work and no play is not a Berkeley Haas core value. Last fall, MBA candidate and social chair for Oski Cohort **Maggie De Moraes**, MBA 28, organized a

**ADVANCING A CURE FOR MS**



**Scott Johnson, MBA 81**, received Boston Consulting Group’s 2025 Alumni Innovation Award for spearheading groundbreaking treatments to repair nerve damage caused by multiple sclerosis. Johnson was diagnosed in 1976 with MS, an autoimmune disease that damages the myelin sheath protecting nerve fibers. He founded the nonprofit Myelin Repair Foundation in 2002 after learning that MS research focused largely on immune system suppression, not on reversing neurological damage. Drawing on skills he developed at BCG and elsewhere, Johnson developed a novel, collaborative research approach that’s accelerated efforts to repair the brain with a drug—the first such treatment—expected to be available within five years.