



Carroll Career Discovery Program

**PASSING THE TORCH
ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES**

**Maria (Chilia) Snizik
CHS Class of 1988**

Owner, Gem City Travel

Maria began her career in the travel industry at the University of Dayton, as a student worker in the Conference Services Department, doing everything from marketing to managing conference operations. While an undergrad, she studied abroad in London and Florence, Italy, and her love for travel was born. After graduation, she moved to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University. While teaching Italian classes, she began helping her students book their own study abroad trips, and her first travel business came to be.

Throughout her 35 ½ year career, she has not only been asked to mentor new agents, but also assist veteran agents in understanding current marketing and social media trends. She has received local and international awards throughout her career for achievements in the industry such as: Outstanding New Conference and Events Professional, Dayton Business Journal's Fast 50 Award, "President's Club" and "Best of the Best" Awards from several travel suppliers, and the CEO Award for Outstanding Social Media from Sandals and Beaches Resorts. Most notably Maria was also awarded the Outstanding Worldwide Contribution to the Sandals Resorts Foundation Award for her and her family's dedication to schools in the Caribbean. Both of her kids have initiated and executed projects (building a playground and providing hundreds of filled backpacks to schools) on the islands. This perhaps is Maria's favorite part about travel - giving back to the communities where she travels...but also to the local communities where her travel business is active.

Maria currently owns Gem City Travel in Dayton, where she not only manages the business, but provides marketing and training to her travel advisor team, while actively serving her own clients. Her agency also plans trips for alumni, friends, and family, while also giving back to the Carroll community.

She is the proud mom of recent Carroll grad Nathan '23 and current student Ryan '27. Maria is also the coordinator/assistant coach for Carroll Cross Country's Youth Team and co-coordinator of the East Catholic Striders. An '88 grad of Carroll, Maria was active mostly in Marching Band and Winter Guard. She believes that her time at Carroll not only provided amazing friendships and experiences, but also laid the foundation to her successful business today.

Education

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration: University of Dayton (major: Marketing; minors: International Business and Italian)
- Master of Arts Degree in Italian Language and Literature: The Ohio State University

Are you interested in a career in the **travel industry, business management, or marketing?**
Get your questions answered!

**When: Tuesday,
January 23, 2024**

**11:15 am-12:15 pm
(during 4th period)**

Where: Room 310

**Stop in at the CLC to
register or email
mleaman@carrollhs.org
or jweitz@carrollhs.org**

**Be sure to pack or buy
lunch and feel free to
bring it with you to eat
during the presentation!
This is considered an
excused absence
from class.
Hope to see you there!**