



## **Take Three with Shannon Majewski**

*Shannon Majewski, CMP, CMM, HMCC, VEMM, is the Events Specialist at Kern Institute*

*2018, April 1 – The Majewskis following the Easter Papal mass (delivered by Pope Francis) at St. Peter’s Square, Vatican City. Truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience (we even had seats and received communion!).*

*We recently asked Shannon to share a little about herself and her role at the Kern Institute...*

### **Background and Current Role in the Kern Institute**

**Professional:** I fell into meeting and event planning in 1995 when I moved to the San Francisco Bay area and applied for a job at a company that produced approximately 35 luxury destination symposiums annually for Continuing Medical and Nursing Education audiences – and I was wowed! It was (and is) demanding and challenging work, but I knew I had found my career, and I have stayed in the meeting and events industry ever since. I’m a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) through Events Industry Council, a Certified Meeting Manager (CMM) through Meeting Professionals International and Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business, and I specialize in healthcare meeting compliance (HMCC). I have been with MCW for six years, serving a little over five years with the Department of Pathology, and as of July 2022 I’ve been with the Kern Institute, as our Events Specialist.

**Personal:** I was raised in northern Illinois and, in addition to living in the SF Bay area for a couple of years, I have also lived in Lake Geneva, WI and Waukesha – the latter being my home for the past 24 years. I’ve been married for nearly 30 years to my husband, Lorenzo, and together we have two children, who are both in college – a daughter in pharmacy school (who will soon to be doing a rotation at Children’s Hospital) and a son working on his finance undergrad. We are foodies and love to cook and travel. When COVID-19 lockdowns were lifted, we started venturing out on some long cross-country road trips where we could also do a bit of rugged off-roading in our Jeep. We are big DIY’ers and are in the midst of a major home remodel. I love gardening, taking in the arts, visiting natural springs, and pursuing random adventures, including architectural spelunking.

### **What accomplishment have you been most proud of in your work?**

So many unbelievable moments that I hold with gratitude – I could write a book (and someday I might!). Those that jump out in my mind are those where the best was made of very bad

situations, that remind me of the strength and resilience of the human spirit that lives within each of us:

- Being able to get a therapy dog (that was a *co-presenter* for an animal-assisted therapy program) into the state of Hawaii for a seminar with 300 people registered - despite the 6-month-quarantine typically required for animals due to Hawaii never having had a case of rabies, with only two weeks' notice that the dog would be denied entry (I had to find the loopholes and navigate through them at warp speed).
- Having one of our busiest seminar months in September of 2001, and on September 11, working with a remarkable – nearly prophetic - planning team that was so swift to respond, when despite having to cancel all plans to fly all presenters and coordinators throughout the United States due to flight groundings, and frankly despite being afraid of what might happen next, we did not cancel any of our something-like-50 day-long seminars (with hundreds of people signed up at each) over the duration of flight groundings. At the time I was also a 6-month-pregnant mother of a toddler, and my husband would be stranded out of town in a first-tier destination – the fear was very real for everyone. If I can shout out to Kris Scheel in Pathology, as she was part of this team at our former employer.
- In 2021 being honored as part of a three-woman-grassroots team, as awardees of the prestigious Global Adaptation and Innovation Award from the international meetings and events authority, Events Industry Council (EIC) in recognition of extraordinary effort in the areas of adaptation and innovation in the global business events industry, for the creation of the Pandemic Compliance Advisor Course (PCA) for meeting and events professionals, for developing an industry blueprint that saved and created jobs amid the pandemic, globally. We were one of only two American awardees, one of few women awardees, and the only grassroots effort to receive 2021 EIC awards.

### **What Kern activities do you look forward to in the coming year?**

Hands down, the next MedMoth. While I am biased as part of the planning group, I've come to have a great affinity for the human value of this event. If you haven't ever been to an MCW MedMoth storytelling event, you are missing out! Offered twice a year (once in the fall and once in the spring), and organized primarily by a student team, each event is a unique opportunity to engage and connect through the experiences of others. I look forward to seeing additional staff storytellers as we are currently an underrepresented group. Curious? I invite staff questions!

I'm excited to start shaping the Grand Rounds and Connection Cafes for the 2023-24 academic year and digging into speaker proposals with the advisory committee to help produce the timely, valuable sessions the Kern Institute is known for. It has been a pleasure to partner closely with Dr. Marty Muntz and all the Kern Institute faculty and staff in bringing these sessions to Kern Institute audiences.

### **Favorite spring food and recipe**

Peas are my favorite spring food, and one of my all-time favorite recipes – which is a throwback from the 1950's and doesn't actually involve much in the way of cooking so much as

preparation – the [Classic Seven Layer Salad](#). As someone who drifts in and out of Keto food lanes, I do tend to replace the sugar with stevia. I also garnish with pea shoots to really enhance the spring-pea flavor (available at Trader Joes, Whole Foods, and Good Harvest, or some farmers' markets) and sometimes I use lettuce of greater nutritional value in the base. It's one that is always requested for family Easter gatherings.