CDR'S TOP AEROSPACE & DEFENCE **PROFESSIONALS** 

CDR is proud to announce the sixth iteration of this segment designed to recognize the achievements and significant contributions of the very best of Canada's present and future leaders in the aerospace & defence industry.

Those profiled possess a strong work ethic, leadership qualities, innovativeness, and are influential in promoting Canada's Aerospace & Defence Industry.

Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of these young professionals.

#### **NICK BORAGINA**

COMPANY: ISAAC TITLE: MANAGING PARTNER AGE: 39

rom tinkering with dirt bikes and gokarts as a child to advising on Canada's most complex defence programs, Nick's passion for engineering has fueled his path in defence. After graduating from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering, he joined Isaac Operations in 2008 - finding the perfect place to combine technical expertise with hands-on problem solving. Shortly after joining the firm, he began working in defence -a field that would define his career. One of his early projects saw him working with a leading aerospace manufacturer specializing in aircraft components and MRO for military aircrafts. Working alongside internal teams, Nick helped bring a struggling program back on schedule. The experience hooked him: the intricacy of engineering, the complexity of supply chains, the precision of manufacturing, and the mission-critical nature of the work felt deeply meaningful.

He later supported Canada's submarine and frigate programs - including the nation's first refit of its class - contributing to one of the country's highest-profile defence projects. Since then, Nick has emerged as a trusted leader in Canada's defence sector, strengthening Canada's defence readiness by improving schedule adherence on major marine, naval, and aerospace programs. Rising through the ranks to become Managing Partner in 2022, he has helped scale the organization's growth



from 5 employees to more than 110 today. Under his leadership, he has spearheaded measurable improvements on multi-billiondollar programs - where his firm quite literally stakes its fees on delivering the results.

For Nick, the work is both personal and purposeful and is driven by his lifelong belief in the importance of sovereign nations being able to defend themselves. His engineering background gives him a deep appreciation for the precision and collaboration required in defence manufacturing, while his natural drive for optimization pushes him to find faster, better solutions.

Looking forward, Nick is focused on accelerating Canada's defence capabilities at scale. He sees an urgent need to shorten the cycle time from end-to-end - streamlining procurement, design, build and delivery processes so Canada can equip itself more guickly. His dream is to transform how all of Canada's defence programs are executed, delivering advanced capabilities to the nation sooner and more cost effectively. With his strategic vision and passion for solving the problems of some of Canada's leading defence companies, Nick exemplifies what the Canadian Defence Review celebrates: vision, resilience, and the ability to make an impact where it matters most.

# **TUHIN DAS**

COMPANY: KONGSBERG TITLE: DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGE: 39

■ uhin Das is the Director of Business Development (Canada) at Kongsberg Geospatial, part of Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace. With nearly 15 years in Canada's defence and aerospace ecosystem, he focuses on building trusted partnerships and converting strategic opportunities into programs that strengthen Canadian sovereignty and



interoperability with allies.

At Kongsberg, Tuhin leads Canadian capture strategy with his Norwegian Business Units, driving stakeholder engagement across land, sea, air, space, and Arctic-focused portfolios supporting technologies that span from underwater to space. His role centers on translating government priorities into clear pursuit plans, coordinating cross-functional teams, and structuring partnerships that maximize Canadian content and long-term sustainment. He is recognized for navigating complex procurements, aligning industry partners, and ensuring proposals reflect NATOaligned standards and real operational needs.

Prior to Kongsberg, Tuhin served as Capture Lead for the Polar Overthe-Horizon Radar project for DRDC, contributing to Canada's broader pursuit of enhanced domain awareness and NORAD modernization.

Tuhin's perspective is grounded in first-hand engagement with Northern and Indigenous stakeholders. Recent discussions in Whitehorse, Yukon, with Indigenous Chiefs and territorial leaders, reinforced his commitment to ensuring that capability and

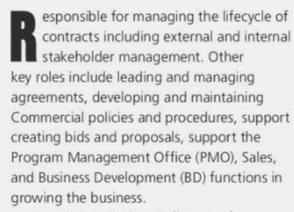
procurement decisions reflect the realities of Canada's North, including local priorities, infrastructure needs, and reconciliation

He engages regularly with DND, PSPC, ISED, and CAF requirements offices, providing timely market feedback on procurement efficiency, capability alignment, and ITB/KIC pathways that create skilled jobs and support export growth. Tuhin also contributes industry insights as a member of the CADSI Policy Committee, supporting national dialogue on the Defence Policy Update, innovation programs, and industrial policy tools that can accelerate capability delivery.

Educated in Canada and committed to continuous learning, Tuhin mentors student and alumni groups and supports professional communities within the defence sector. He is a previous recipient of Carleton University's Sprott School of Business Good Business Award (2019), recognizing leadership grounded in ethical, community-minded impact. His mission is clear: build Canadian capability, strengthen allied interoperability, and help deliver trusted, interoperable solutions for the Canadian Armed Forces and partners.

#### RYAN FABBRO

COMPANY: QINETIQ TARGET SYSTEM TITLE: CONTRACTS MANAGER AGE: 39



Growing up in the small town of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Ryan developed a deep-rooted passion for community service, volunteering, and coaching youth. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Regina, he dedicated his early career to supporting persons with disabilities and leading youth-focused recreational programs aimed at drug and alcohol prevention.

Ryan is a devoted husband and proud father of four, balancing family life with



a dynamic and impactful career in the defence sector. His journey into aerospace and defence began in his mid-to-late 20s when he joined QinetiQ (formerly Meggitt) in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Over the years, Ryan has held multiple roles across the organization, culminating in his current position as Contracts Manager within the Commercial Function.

A champion of continuous learning, Ryan has completed several certificate programs through Mount Royal University, specializing in Contract Management, Business Law, and Leadership. His commitment to professional development is matched by his dedication to promoting Diversity and Inclusion, actively engaging with internal and external stakeholders to support QinetiQ's growth and values.

Ryan is recognized for his integrity, collaborative spirit, and high-performance mindset. He plays a pivotal role in shaping strategies, policies, and procedures that enhance business sustainability and mitigate risk. His analytical acumen and customerfirst approach have been instrumental in securing and managing contracts with key government entities, including the Government of Canada (DND) and the U.S. Department of Defense, through partnerships with CCC and PSPC.

Known for his responsiveness and ability to foster strong relationships, Ryan ensures operational excellence and customer satisfaction throughout the contract lifecycle. His expertise in contracts, bids, and proposals makes him a vital contributor to QinetiQ's business-winning efforts, with deep knowledge of legal and financial requirements, pricing models, and risk management.

Ryan exemplifies QinetiQ's core values— Integrity, Collaboration, and Performance and lives its guiding behaviours: Listen, Focus, and Keep Promises. His leadership, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to doing the right thing make him a standout professional in the aerospace and defence industry.

#### RYAN GOMES

COMPANY: ITPS CANADA TITLE: VICE-PRESIDENT, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE & MODIFICATION

AGE: 36

ased in London, Ontario, Ryan Gomes serves as Vice President, Aircraft Maintenance & Modification at ITPS (Canada) Ltd., where he oversees the airworthiness, certification, maintenance, and dispatch requirements for both the International Test Pilots School (ITPS) and the International Tactical Training Centre (ITTC). His leadership ensures that both

organizations maintain the highest standards of safety, reliability, and technical excellence in support of flight test and tactical training

Ryan leads and mentors a dedicated team of 80 employees, including Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, flight line personnel, quality assurance staff, and stores personnel. Under his direction, ITPS achieved a major milestone in 2023 by becoming a Transport Canada Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO) for its fleet of military jets and certified fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft—a testament to the professionalism and high standards that define ITPS.

In his role, Ryan leads the Maintenance Control System and develops AMO procedures that uphold the most rigorous airworthiness and certification standards. He

works in close collaboration with engineering teams and flight test pilots throughout the lifecycle of in-house modification programs, including Preliminary and Critical Design Reviews, Safety Review Boards, and Flight Readiness Reviews. A strong advocate for safety, Ryan leverages the Safety Management System to drive continuous improvement and foster a just and learning culture where staff and students alike benefit from shared experience and feedback.

ITPS is recognized as the world's largest independent test pilot school, welcoming students from Canada, NATO, and Allied nations with both civil and military sponsors. The institution's training programs are designed to meet the highest international standards in flight test education and aerospace safety. Ryan plays a key role in supporting ITPS's broader mission to advance technical capability and maintain a culture of excellence across all aspects of operations.

Committed to developing the next generation of aviation professionals, Ryan also supports ITPS's apprenticeship, co-op, and internship programs in partnership with colleges and universities across Canada. Beyond his role at ITPS, he serves as Minister's Delegate of Maintenance and President of Venerable Aerospace Inc., overseeing the airworthiness assessment and certification of imported aircraft in Canada and providing continued airworthiness management services to private operators. A passionate educator, Ryan has also shared his expertise as a Part-Time Professor of Aviation at Mohawk College, where he taught Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and contributed to curriculum development.



# **JOZSEF HAMARI**

COMPANY: TERRASENSE TITLE: CEO & FOUNDER AGE: 34

founder and currently CEO of TerraSense Analytics, as well as a founding member of the CRWN.ai board of directors, Jozsef Hamari is responsible for the company's technology leadership, building the engineering team and driving technical and product vision.

Prior to taking on the role of CEO in 2025, Jozsef worked as the CTO of the company since 2018. He brings expertise in intelligent

sensor system design, artificial intelligence and machine learning software development and deployment, as well as remote sensing and data fusion. He has experience in remote sensing and data processing, including remote sensing in the fields of airborne



sensing, forest management, and wildfire management. He is also a Registered Professional

Forester in the Province of British Columbia with experience in conducting software modeling, simulation, and remote sensing using satellite, aircraft, and drone technologies in the natural resources sector, and has previously worked in those roles at Cabin Works and the Province of British Columbia. Jozsef earned both of his degrees from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

In his spare time, Jozsef is an aviation enthusiast, having earned his pilot's license in the 2000s, and enjoys tinkering with electronics, 3D printing, embedded software and IOT.

# LINDSEY KETTEL

COMPANY: CHANTIER DAVIE CANADA TITLE: PRESIDENT

AGE: 39



indsey Kettel has been a driving force behind Chantier Davie Canada Inc.'s transformation and growth for more than a decade. Joining Davie in 2015 as Vice-President, Business Processes, Lindsey played a pivotal role in aligning operations to deliver the MV Asterix to the Royal Canadian Navy—a milestone that marked a turning point for the company. Her leadership and

vision have since shaped Davie's strategic direction, culminating in her appointment as President in 2025. Throughout her tenure, Lindsey has spearheaded initiatives that positioned Davie as a key partner in Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSS). She was instrumental in securing Davie's entry into the NSS and driving the successful pursuit of the Polar Max contract, which will deliver Canada's first new Polar Icebreaker for the Canadian Coast Guard. Her contributions extend to major projects in research and innovation, and strategic partnerships, reinforcing Davie's role as a leader in marine construction, conversion, and repair.

As President, Lindsey oversees the execution of Davie's corporate strategy and provides leadership across operations in Lévis, Montréal, and Ottawa. Her priorities include fostering a culture rooted in collaboration and relationships, strengthening supply chain resilience, and accelerating digital transformation to modernize operations. Under her guidance, Davie is entering a period of significant growth, including a major

shipyard modernization and the onboarding of more than 1,000 new employees.

Originally from Toronto, Lindsey is an engineer by training and holds a Bachelor of Engineering & Management as well as an Executive MBA. She began her career as a consultant focused on operational and financial performance improvement, working with clients across Canada, the U.S., and the U.K. in sectors ranging from manufacturing to healthcare. Since 2012, she has dedicated her expertise to the marine industry, supporting submarine repair programs for Babcock Canada and Seaspan before joining Davie.

Beyond her professional achievements, Lindsey is married to a Québécois and is the proud mother of two young daughters, aged four and one. Her personal journey reflects the same values she brings to her leadership—commitment, resilience, and a passion for building strong relationships. Today, Lindsey leads Davie with optimism and determination, focused on delivering impactful shipbuilding projects and shaping the future of Canada's maritime capabilities.

#### **COREY KIRKHUS**

COMPANY: DATIFEX TITLE: DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGE: 34

s Director of Product & Business Development at Datifex, Corey plays a pivotal role in advancing innovative solutions for the Canadian defence community.

Corey's leadership has been instrumental in the development and commercialization of Datifex's DATIVerse 3D™, an immersive software platform built on advanced game engine technology for industrial metaverses. His influential work is serving to inform stakeholders as to how to digitize and modernize defence operational capabilities in complex environments with complex assets to strengthen situational awareness, and command and control. He clearly demonstrates how new technology can be woven into everyday workflows, helping leaders and teams make quicker, smarter decisions that improve safety, security, and the long-term reliability of key assets.

Datifex's product lineup, SeaReady, LandReady and AirReady support the needs of the navy, army and air force. SeaReady applications have been tested by the Royal Canadian Navy and are in various stages of operation such as DigitalDockyard for fleet dockyard management, Maintenance Manager for Halifax-class frigate dockyard work periods, DutyWatch for officer of the day functions, FleetState for NATO Naval Ship Code certification, CrewState for occupational specification management, and more.

Corey is now expanding Datifex's presence in Europe, building key applications, real-world use cases, and valuable relationships with important stakeholders. Corey's engagements include RCN's Admiral Topshee, and major partners like BAE, Babcock, Fleetway, Thales, SSI, and Lockheed



Martin Canada. He also has strong ties with the likes of Victoria Belbin, CEO of the Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defence Association (ACADA), leaders at Transport Canada, Canadian Coastquard, and leaders within the Innovation sector.

His work overseeing the Halifax Port Authority adoption of OneHarbour to digitalize and transform port operations, highlights his initiative— working with the Harbour Master's team on integration and training and single-handedly getting things done like installing vision recognition cameras and integrating radar systems on rooftops around the harbour.

Corey's market research, outreach, product positioning, travel, and public speaking have played a big part in raising Datifex's profile at major defence events like CANSEC, DSEI, the UK Combined Naval Event, and DEFSEC.

Corey is an outdoor adventurer, hiking and skiing across Canada, and Europe, surfing both coasts, completing avalanche survival training, and doing shark tagging expeditions; plus, he volunteers for search, rescue and diving efforts in Nova Scotia and Halifax.

Corey has a Bachelor of Commerce (Coop) in International Business from Dalhousie University (2009-2015). His dedication, leadership, and innovative spirit make him a deserving candidate for this recognition.

# **JONAS LEBLANC**

COMPANY: SAMUEL ASSOCIATES TITLE: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

AGE: 30

onas LeBlanc-Wilmink is a communications professional with extensive experience in government relations, business development, and strategic marketing across industries such as aerospace, defence, national security, telecommunications, and public safety. At the Samuel Group, headquartered in Ottawa, Jonas specializes in helping organizations from startups to enterprises—navigate public sector markets, secure funding, understand regulations, and proactively engage in procurement processes both politically and bureaucratically. Jonas is heavily involved in the operations of all Samuel Group divisions and companies internationally.

Jonas has a unique combination of political expertise and industry experience,

allowing him to shape policy and drive business growth. His career began in political campaign strategy, where he interacted with municipal, provincial, and national campaigns, honing skills in strategic communications, voter outreach, and policy analysis. These experiences led him to roles in leading national and international nonprofits, deepening his expertise in lobbying, policy development, and public advocacy.

In his role, Jonas advises clientsparticularly in the defence and security sectors—on building relationships with government stakeholders, identifying funding



programs, and navigating the regulatory procedures. His business development skills, gained through selling software to the US market, have also helped companies craft targeted marketing strategies for government audiences and senior officials, successfully engage in tendering processes, and expand their reach and partnerships in heavily regulated sectors.

He is adept at helping companies identify new business opportunities and refine their market positioning and industrial narrative. He has guided organizations in crafting compelling value propositions all while ensuring they stay competitive and compliant. His expertise spans both public and private sectors, acting as a trusted advisor for companies seeking to understand market trends, competition, and consumer behaviour.

Jonas holds a degree in Political Science with a focus on Global Governance from the University of Waterloo. Outside of work, Jonas is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing. When he's not out in nature, you can find him watching a Sunday stockcar race or football game.

#### **AMANDA MARTENS**

COMPANY: METOCEAN TITLE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, DEFENCE AGE: 36

manda is an accomplished business development professional with a growing reputation in the global Defence and Aerospace industry. In her role with MetOcean Telematics, she focuses on building international partnerships and expanding the company's presence in key

defence markets. Known for her collaborative strong grounding in both the strategic and approach and strategic mindset, Amanda has successfully developed relationships with OEMs, system integrators, and government stakeholders to support major programs around the world.

Amanda began her post-secondary studies at Nova Scotia Community College, completing a diploma in Business Administration and Management in 2023. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Business Administration at Mount Saint Vincent University, with a concentration in Marketing and Management, and is on track to graduate in 2026. Her studies complement her professional experience, giving her a

operational aspects of business development.

Throughout her brief career, Amanda has already gained significant international experience. She has travelled extensively across Europe, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and North America, engaging with industry leaders, military organizations, and government representatives. This global exposure has helped her develop a nuanced understanding of different markets and cultures - an asset that allows her to build trust and foster long-term partnerships across borders.

Much of Amanda's work has centered on the maritime sector, where she has contributed to projects supporting Search and Rescue (SAR) and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations. Her ability to navigate the technical and commercial aspects of these programs has made her a key contributor to MetOcean's defence initiatives and collaborations.

Amanda's passion for the industry is matched by her commitment to representing Canadian innovation on the world stage. She continues to make a strong impact through her professionalism, cultural awareness, and drive to advance partnerships that strengthen Canada's role in global Defence.



COMPANY: GDMS-C TITLE: SONAR SYSTEMS PROGRAM MANAGER

AGE: 33

eading the delivery of advanced antisubmarine warfare (ASW) capabilities for the Royal Netherlands and the Belgian Navy's new ASW frigates. He manages cross-functional teams, budgets, risks, and stakeholder communication to ensure successful program delivery and customer satisfaction.

Reed is a purpose-driven, people-first leader whose authentic leadership is having a lasting impact within Canada's defence sector. Since joining GDMS-C over a decade ago, following his graduation from Carleton University with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, he has contributed to some of the company's most strategically important programs. Reed began his career supporting Canadian operators on the Aurora Incremental Modernization Project for the RCAF'S CP-140 (Block IV) as a System Engineering Analyst. He now leads delivery of the sonar system for the Netherlands' Anti-Submarine Warfare ship program, providing world-leading technology to enhance the next-generation vessels of the Royal Netherlands and Belgian Navies.



As part of the company's recreation association in Ottawa, Reed drives initiatives that create opportunities for colleagues to connect outside of projects - from appreciation events to team activities - shaping a positive workplace culture

to build strong, collaborative relationships

across international programs and partners.

rooted in belonging. Through the TogetHER colleague resource group, he promotes equity in the workplace by using his influence to advocate for policy change. His participation in WiDS events, including the Annual Awards Breakfast, demonstrates his commitment to showing up for everyone and fostering a more cohesive, supportive defence ecosystem.

Reed's passion and drive extends into his personal life. An avid triathlete, he was recently a top-25% finisher in his age group in the inaugural Ottawa Ironman. He is also a regular Canada Army Run participant, where he runs to raise funds for Soldier On and Support Our Troops, directly supporting CAF members, veterans and their families. As an active volunteer for Canadian Blood Services, he dedicates his time to support blood drives and advocates for the OneMatch stem cell bone marrow registry. In every endeavour, Reed leads with purpose - driving mission success for Canadian allies while uplifting his community.



COMPANY: BOMBARDIER DEFENSE TITLE: DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AGE: 35

ena Saad currently serves as Director of Programs at Bombardier Defense. In this role, Mena has the mandate to oversee the customization and delivery of the Bombardier Defense platform to the government and military customers across the world.

With over 10 years of experience with the Montreal-based aviation Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), Mena arrived at the company as an engineering intern and climbed his way through the organization. He had the opportunity to work on a multitude of projects related

to the Global and Challenger platforms, before joining Defense in 2019. Since then, he has overseen some notable programs, such as the Persistent German Airborne Surveillance System (PEGASUS) for the German Armed Forces and High Accuracy Detection and Exploitation System (HADES) for the U.S. Army.

Mena holds a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace & Propulsion and an MBA from Concordia University. His deep passion for aeronautics led him to become a co-founder of the Rocketry Division of Space Concordia, the rocketry team that is currently holding the record of the most powerful student-built rocket engine ever fired.





### **MARIA TKACHEVA**

COMPANY: ROSHEL

TITLE: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

AGE: 36

aria Tkacheva is a seasoned executive with over a decade of experience in business development, strategic communications, and operations management. As Chief Operating Officer at Roshel Inc., one of North America's fastest-growing manufacturers of armoured vehicles, Maria plays a critical role in shaping the company's strategic direction and overseeing its daily operations.

Since joining Roshel at its inception, Maria has held progressive leadership roles, initially serving as Vice President. In this role, she led the transformation of the company from a small-scale operation into a major defence manufacturer with a growing international presence. She oversaw all core functions, including finance, HR, sales, marketing, and compliance, and led key initiatives such as ERP implementation and ISO certification. In 2022, she was promoted to

COO and currently manages company-wide operations, including production, financial planning, human capital development, and stakeholder relations. Under her leadership, Roshel has significantly scaled and earned recognition for delivering innovative, mission-critical solutions to government and law enforcement agencies.

Prior to joining Roshel, Maria held senior roles in marketing and corporate communications in both Canada and internationally. She developed and led comprehensive communication strategies that secured major media coverage across global outlets. Earlier in her career, she served as a Senior Account Executive at a leading communications agency, where she managed integrated campaigns for bluechip clients including Shell, Iveco, and TNT Express.

Maria holds a Master's degree in Journalism and a Postgraduate Certificate in Corporate Communications. Most recently, in May 2025 Maria graduated from the Executive MBA program at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Beyond her professional achievements, Maria is a passionate advocate for women in leadership. She has been recognized as a remarkable leader by the Women in Defence and Security (WiDS) association, where she also served as a mentor, supporting the next generation of female leaders in the defence sector.



#### DR. RYAN WHITSIDE

COMPANY: UVAD

TITLE: SENIOR AEROSPACE
ENGINEER, PROPULSION LEAD
AGE: 35

yan Whitside is an accomplished aerospace engineer with a strong background in high-speed flow dynamics and combustion research. He began his academic journey with a degree in mechatronics engineering from the University of Waterloo, followed by a master's in aerospace engineering at the University of

Stuttgart, where he specialized in propulsion systems. Ryan's early career included research roles at the German Aerospace Center and the National Research Council of Canada, focusing on chemical kinetics. He later returned to the University of Waterloo for a short-term contract investigating hypersonic control surfaces.

Driven by a passion for advanced propulsion technologies, Ryan pursued a PhD at the University of Queensland, where he designed and experimentally tested a scramjet engine for space access. His work contributed to the development of reusable and single-use flight engines at Hypersonix Launch Systems, where he served as Propulsion Lead. His responsibilities included

designing engines with regenerative cooling, validating performance across Mach 5–10, and developing hydrogen fuel systems.

In March 2023, Ryan joined Unmanned Vehicle Applied Dynamics (UVAD) as Propulsion Lead. The role centers on integrating propulsion systems with airframe components and developing performance models to optimize efficiency. Responsibilities include designing advanced intake systems and contributing to the architecture of supersonic uncrewed aerial vehicles. Additional expertise is applied in aerothermal heating evaluations, conducting wind tunnel experiments to validate designs, and supporting mission planning for high-speed flight operations. He also lends his expertise to supersonic vehicle design, aerothermal heating analysis, wind tunnel testing, and mission planning. Ryan's contributions continue to push the boundaries of aerospace innovation in Canada and beyond.

Outside of work, Ryan is a devoted husband and father. He balances a demanding career with quality time at home and loves exploring the world with his family and friends he has met over the years.

