



COLLEGE of COASTAL GEORGIA
2024 Fall Commencement

Friday, the Thirteenth of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Four
Southeast Georgia Conference Center

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Graduation day at the College of Coastal Georgia is one of our favorite times of the year. We get to celebrate you and your extraordinary achievements. Class of 2024, we could not be prouder or more impressed by the level of dedication you have displayed throughout your time at the College.

We have a vibrant collegiate life here. You all have brought your unique experiences, diverse backgrounds, cultures, talents, and interests to the institution—making it a great place to live and learn. You’ve taken advantage of the many opportunities we have at the College, like Precious De Jesus, who is earning a bachelor’s in psychology. She, along with several of her peers,

attended a psychology conference to present her research to some of the best minds in their field. Some graduates have earned their degree online, like Jim Johnson who decided to give college another shot. Jim was able to travel the world while earning his bachelor’s in business. Like many of you, not only was he a student, but a global citizen as well.

Today, we have 14 states and 11 countries represented. Our oldest graduate is 63 years old and the youngest are 19, proving that it’s never to late, or too early, to earn a degree. Forty-one graduates are first-generation students, setting precedents in their family for academic success. Along with internships, research projects, and clinicals, you all have contributed over 3,000 hours to various service-learning projects. What a wonderful and brilliant group of students ready to make their mark in the world.

As you move forward, know that we are proud of you and excited to see the incredible things you will accomplish. You are now part of an alumni community that spans generations and reaches around the globe. Stay connected with us, and never hesitate to reach out. We are always here to support you as you pursue your dreams.

From all of us at the College, congratulations! Go Mariners!

Dr. Johnny L. Evans, Jr., Interim President



Sixty-Fifth Commencement of the College of Coastal Georgia
Order of Ceremony

Processional Grand Marshals

Dr. Don H. Mathews
Professor of Economics

Beverly L. Rowe
Associate Professor of Nursing

Dr. M. Karen Hambright
Professor of Psychology

National Anthem

(Please Stand)

Invocation

Bethany M. Watters

Welcome

Dr. Johnny L. Evans, Jr.
Interim President

Greetings from SGA President

Bethany M. Watters

Charge to the Class

Corey Stephen Purvis, Class of 2024

Presentation of Candidates

School of Arts and Sciences

School of Business and Public Management

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. German Vargas
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees

Interim President Evans

Announcement of Graduates

Dr. Michael Butcher
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Recognition of Alumni Status

Hillary S. Stringfellow
Chair, College of Coastal Georgia Foundation

Closing Remarks and Recessional



THE HISTORY OF ACADEMIC REGALIA AND THE CEREMONIAL MACE

The gown, the cap, and the hood, representing the major components of the academic dress, are a ceremonial inheritance from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries where dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility. The academic dress worn by those participating in today's academic processional symbolizes the level of their academic attainment and the institution they attended.

The gown is usually black, however some universities have authorized colored gowns. The gown for an undergraduate degree has pointed sleeves and is worn closed in front. The gown for the master's degree is typically black and has longer oblong sleeves, with a large section that hangs below the wrist. The gown for the doctoral degree is distinguished by the loose sleeves with bell-shaped cuffs, three bars of velvet on each sleeve and velvet facing running down the front of the gown.

The most symbolic feature of the academic dress is the hood. The velvet edge of the hood represents the specific degree or discipline with dark blue for Doctorate of Philosophy, light blue for Education, apricot for Nursing, brown for Fine Arts, canary for Library Science, crimson for Communications, drab for Accounting or Business Administration, gold for Science, sage for Health and white for Arts. The satin field and chevrons of the hood represent the colors of the university that granted the degree. Master's and doctor's degree holders wear the hood draped over the shoulders and back.

The standard cap, known as the mortarboard, is flat and square with a tassel fastened to the center of the stiff top. Bachelor's and master's tassels are black or the color of the gown. Doctor's tassels are shorter and gold. Once the degree is conferred, the tassel is worn on the left. In recent years, some American universities have adopted soft velvet caps for holders of their doctor's degrees.

The ceremonial mace, a symbol of presidential authority, is carried at the head of the academic procession by the Grand Marshal. The College of Coastal Georgia mace is a gift from the Golden Isles community and Dr. Carl Dohn. Dr. Dohn hand-crafted the mace out of reclaimed heart pine cut from huge beams collected and donated by the former Sea Island Company Chairman and CEO Bill Jones, III. This same heart pine was used by Dr. Dohn to craft the table used by the ten delegates of the G-8 Summit, held on Sea Island, Georgia in June of 2004. The mace was first used at the inauguration of the former College of Coastal Georgia President, Dr. Valerie A. Hepburn, in 2009.

LEGEND

Summa Cum Laude - 3.9 - 4.0 Grade Point Average
Magna Cum Laude - 3.70 - 3.89 Grade Point Average
Cum Laude - 3.50 to 3.69 Grade Point Average
Honors - Associate Degree - 3.75 to 4.0 Grade Point Average

REGALIA LEGEND

Athletes - Royal Blue Stole
Academic Honors - Gold Cord
Athletics - Blue and Silver Cord
Residents Assistant - White Stole
Veterans - Navy Stole

GRADUATES

School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Syvillia Averett, Dean

Bachelor of Arts - American Studies

Audrey Michelle Ray

Kylie Noel Szymczak

Bachelor of Science - Biological Sciences

Victoria Danielle Gordon

Shelby Noel Ramsey

Tasmiya Jamsa, *Cum Laude*

Ansley Simpson, *Magna Cum Laude*

Micaela A. Martin

Uriel Alexander Villalobos

Anna Rose Palmieri

Bachelor of Science - Data Science

Zachery Dale Oliver Atkinson, *Cum Laude* David J. Owens, *Summa Cum Laude*

William Chase Jones

Bachelor of Science - Education - Early Childhood/Special Education

Michele Elizabeth Everett

Bachelor of Science - Environmental Sciences

Katelyn Marie Breitenbach

Kaylee Elizabeth Logan

Vinicius Pedro De Souza

Jonathan David Warehime

Bachelor of Science - Interdisciplinary Studies

Elias Malachi Anderson, *Cum Laude*

Ashley Nichole Rogers

Sabina La'ree Chappell

Rebecca Katherine Shea

Gretta Anne Collins

Lindsay Brooke Smith

Rachel Cox

Nova Morningstar Smith

Maribel Gonzalez-Garcia

Kimberly Alisa Spear Wharton

Ryan Cody Graham

Danneil Janeil Taylor

Adrien Guye

Cody Tyre

Stacey Monique Hamilton

Lexus E. Watkins

Sally Ann Logue

Madisen Anne Worst

Samuel Donald Morales

Bachelor of Science - Mathematics

Casey Andrew Griffin

James Mcrae Hutchinson, *Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Science - Middle Grades Education

Feona K. Hunnicutt

William Randolph Spalding

Blayne Andrew Johnson

Bachelor of Science - Psychology

Autumn Rain Armour

Lisa Bronwyn McKenzie,

Caryn Marie Curry

Summa Cum Laude

Precious Genevieve Moncada De Jesus,

Deniacia Kay Mitchell

Summa Cum Laude

Kimya Rajabali Oromi

Kayla Kristin Fink

Toi Chantel Roseborough

Natiana Renee Hall

Danielle Silvan, *Magna Cum Laude*

Jesse Lynn Larson

Shawn T. Williams Jr.

School of Business and Public Management

Dr. William S. Mounts, Jr., Dean

Bachelor of Business Administration - General Business

Jack Keith Anderson, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Sydney Paige Henderson, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Andrew Gordon Aspinwall	Riley Shane Holcomb, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Elizabeth Michelle Bullard	James Johnson
Jermuria Butler	Kevin Leuenberger, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Carleigh Elle Carter, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Corey Stephen Purvis
Carlos Daniel Castillo	Megan Lee Smith
Larica Sarah Cronnon, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Molly Katherine Starling
Wendy Jane Daughtry, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Makenzie Stebbins
Bethany Corin Evans	Sarah Michelle Sutton, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Madison Blair Farmer	Sadie Faye Treadwell, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Holland McKinleigh Gill, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Ashley Brooke Vining
Ana González, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Cecilia I. Wish
Kristel Sofia Gonzalez, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Madeline Maggie Witmer,
Kyla Serell Hamlin	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Ashley Dawn Hayes	

Bachelor of Science - Accounting

Larica Sarah Cronnon, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Corey Stephen Purvis
Kristel Sofia Gonzalez, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Daniel I. Smith, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Kaley Nicole Lewis, <i>Cum Laude</i>	

Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice

Rachel Elizabeth Eubank,	Madison Lee Melton
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	John Tran, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Leonna Michelle Magwood	Angel Guerra Vigi

Bachelor of Science - Hospitality and Tourism Management

Celeste Cyan Morgan	William Loris Townsend
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Bachelor of Science - Public Administration

Mackenzie Leigh Kework	Elizabeth Kate Raber
Sharon Mamie Pointer	Blakely Ann Ray

Bachelor of Applied Science - Health Informatics

Sharmaine Labausa Bagalihog, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Paris Devante' Whitfield
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Bachelor of Applied Science - Workforce Management and Leadership

Nicholas Patrick Coccia	Christopher M. Ryals, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Jimi Lance Ellis, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Natalie Antoinette Sapp

In Memory of

Professor Bryan Russell Lemons, M.P.A., J.D.

September 20, 1967 - July 6, 2024

Professor Lemons was a dedicated mentor and teacher who was beloved by his students and deeply respected by his colleagues. Bryan was responsible for an impressive legacy of student success. He embodied the spirit of our motto, "Every student, every time."

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Lydia A. Watkins, Southeast Georgia Health System Distinguished Chair and Dean

Bachelor of Science - Health Sciences

Molly McGrane McManus, *Cum Laude*

School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Syvillia Averett, Dean

Associate of Arts

Terry W. Brantley
Erica Morgan Field

Jackson Christopher Noah
Emily Ryan Whitten

Associate of Science

Jeff Randall Barnett
Natasha Clark
Andrea Jasmine Contreras-Rivera
Charley Leighann Countess
Carson Sam Fowler
Kelly Renee Hartley
Myranda Shiann Leggett

Tyler A. Lyons
Robin Sikes McQueen
Julianna April Pittman, *Honors*
Bhavish Singh
Brittany Marie Smith
Michelle Marie Walsh

School of Business and Public Management

Dr. William S. Mounts, Jr., Dean

Associate of Applied Science - Culinary Arts

Gracie K. Adkinson, *Honors*
Jamyah Kendrick Coleman
Andrew Devlin
Samantha Leigh Flott, *Honors*

Colby Elvis Griffin, *Honors*
Dalton Sinclair Houston, *Honors*
Zachary T. Pierce, *Honors*

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Lydia A. Watkins, Southeast Georgia Health System Distinguished Chair and Dean

Associate of Science - Nursing

Kehinde Adeniyi
Laura Amdany
Devon Baeza
David Beahm
Nedjine Bernier Estilin
Dayziah Samone Brown
Lauren Elise Callahan
Lori Elizabeth Cohen
Ke'Ana Yokka Dixon
Cavalry Anne Esteban

Gabriell Kylee Goodman
Kiley Alexis Harden
Bryan K. Howard
MacKenzie Necole Marsh
Krystal Milton
Radhika Patel
Kelly DeAnn Rachal
Eryn Michelle Rodriguez
Shy'keira Da'shayla Veals
Yasmen Williams

Associate of Science - Radiologic Science

Ansley Grace McCord, *Honors*
Matthew Ryan Miller

Morghan Elizabeth Reeder

2024-2025 FULL TIME FACULTY

Cynthia J. Atwood, M.S., Senior Lecturer of Criminal Justice
James Atwood, J.D., Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Syvillia Averett, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Data Science, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Tyler E. Bagwell, M.F.A., Professor of Communication
Ashley H. Barnes, D.N.P., R.N., C.N.E., Assistant Professor of Nursing
Jennifer Beirdneau, M.A.Ed., RT, (R), (MR), (ARRT), Lecturer and Clinical Coordinator for Radiologic Science
Kathleen Bennett, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Teacher Education
James Benton, Ph.D., J.D., Professor of Accounting
Jamie Berrie, M.S., Senior Lecturer of Mathematics
Scott Bird, Professor of Practice: Leadership and Management
Carla Bluhm, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
Emily Boyle, M.A., Director of Honors Program, Lecturer of English
Robert Brant, M.S.N., R.N., A.G.N.P., Lecturer and Clinical Coordinator of Nursing
Katie Beth Brooks, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English
Christine Brown, D.P.T., Assistant Professor of Health Science and Anatomy and Physiology
Drew Cagle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
James R. Carpenter, M.S., Assistant Professor of Biology
Joshua Clark, M.S., Senior Lecturer of Biology
Kelly Clark, M.S., Biology and Geology Laboratory Instructor
Robert C. Clark, Ph.D., Chair of Faculty Senate, Associate Professor of English
Stacie Conley, R.N., Nursing Clinical Lecturer
Stephanie B. Conner, Ed.D., Associate Professor of English
Richard Lee Craz, Chef Instructor
Nicole Critcher, Instructor of Education
Marc R. Culley, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
James Deemy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Science
Wanda DeLeo, Ph.D., Professor of Accounting
Savannah Downing, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication
Patrice Edwards, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Johnny L. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., Interim President
Heather Farley, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Business and Public Management, Associate Professor of Public Management
Rene Fidler, M.S.N., R.N., A.G.N.P.-C, Nursing Student Success Counselor, Lecturer of Nursing
Kyle Fox, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Arts and Humanities, Assistant Professor of Communication
Nicole Shupe Fullard, M.S.N., R.N., F.N.P.-C, Lecturer of Nursing
Shandy Frey, Research, Instruction, and Engagement Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science
Julie Fusco, M.S., Anatomy and Physiology Lab Instructor
Leon C. Gardner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry
Bill Garlen, Ed.D., Director of Business Innovation and Development
Caroline Geiken, Ed.D., Professor of Practice of Special Education

Mylynda D. Gill, M.S., Archive, Instruction, and Special Collections Librarian,
Assistant Professor of Library Science

Laura Grantham, D.N.P., R.N., Assistant Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences,
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Elizabeth Gregory, M.S.N., R.N., Lecturer of Nursing

Jennifer Pooler Gray, Ph.D., Coordinator of the Writing Center, Professor of English

M. Karen Hambright, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Jennifer M. Hatchel, Ph.D., Professor of Biology

Karen L. Haven, M.S., Public Services Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science

Deanna Helphrey, M.S., Lecturer of Biology

C. Tate Holbrook, Ph.D., Interim Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences,
Professor of Biology

Debra L. Holmes, Ed.S., Dean of Library Services, Assistant Professor of Library Science

Michele Johnson, M.L.I.S, Public Services Librarian, Assistant Professor of
Library Science

John L. Kissinger, M.A., M.L.S., Public Services Librarian, Assistant Professor of
Library Science

Colleen Knight, Ph.D., Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Student Engagement,
Professor of Chemistry

Andrea Kwasny, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

Alison Lawson, M.S.N., R.N., Lecturer of Nursing

Nevada LeCounte, D.N.P., R.N., C.M.S.R.N., P.C.C.N., C.N.E., C.H.S.E,
Simulation Specialist, Associate Professor of Nursing

Kathryn Lee, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., Lecturer of Nursing

David Lipham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Joseph Lodmell, M.A., M.S., Director of the Camden Center, Lecturer in Chemistry

Rebecca Long, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E.-C.L., Lecturer of Nursing

Karen Lucas, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics Education

José Lugo Santiago, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics

Taylor Lutz, M.A., Lecturer of English

Kimberly Kinsey Mannahan, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Nicole R. Masano, D.N.P., R.N., C.N.M., C.N.E., Professor of Nursing

Don H. Mathews, Ph.D., Professor of Economics

Mary McGinnis, Ph.D., Director of the ENDEAVOR Center for High Impact Practices,
Associate Professor of English

Robin McLachlan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Geology

William McLachlan, M.A.S., Lecturer of Data Science

Jessica Melilli-Hand, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

Hector Montford, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History

Jessica Morris, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Teacher Education with Specialization in
Reading Literacy Education

Michael P. Morris, Ph.D., Professor of History

Tara Mosher, D.N.P., R.N., C.C.R.N.-K., C.N.E., Assistant Professor of Nursing

Matthew Mosley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management

William S. Mounts Jr., Ph.D., Dean of the School of Business and Public Management,
Professor of Economics

David Mulry, Ph.D., Professor of English

Holly Nance, Ph.D., Director of STEM Initiatives, Associate Professor of Biology

Caílín Noble, M.A., Senior Lecturer of Mathematics
Kathryn Ostrander, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Health Science
Nicole Pankiewicz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
Ernest Pascoe, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry
Nicole Piercey, RT (R), (ARRT), Lecturer for Radiologic Science
Lainie Pomerleau, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English
Aurora Pope, M.F.A., Associate Professor of Visual Arts
J. Brian Pope, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
Ashley Prosser, M.S., Lecturer of Mathematics
Aurora Ramos Núñez, Ph.D., Student Success Coordinator,
Associate Professor of Psychology
T. David Reese, Ph.D., Professor of Finance and Economics
Richard Roberson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management,
Chef Instructor
Traesha Robertson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology
Beverly L. Rowe, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., Associate Professor of Nursing
Maryanne Sandberg, Ed.D., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing
Roscoe Scarborough, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Social Sciences,
Associate Professor of Sociology
Natalie Schrey, M.S., Physical Science Lab Coordinator and Instructor
Ben Seligson, M.A., Lecturer of Mathematics
Amy Sneed, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences,
Associate Professor of Middle Grades Education
Ashleigh Spurlock, M.Ed., R.T., (R), Program Director of Radiologic Science,
Lecturer of Radiologic Science
Nelbert St. Clair, D.Sc., Associate Professor of Cyber Security and Criminal Justice
David Stasek, Ph.D., Professor of Biology
Richard Stephens, Ed.D., Lecturer of Business Administration
Kimberly Takagi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Oceanography
Dantera Tangpisuthipongsa, M.D., Associate Professor of Biology
Lori Tigani, M.S., Chemistry Lab Instructor
Melissa Trussell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics
Min-Cheng Tu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental Science
Jason W. Umfress, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
German A. Vargas, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Professor of Mathematics
Tyra Warner, Ph.D., J.D., Chair of the Departments of Hospitality, Tourism and
Culinary Arts and Criminal Justice and Public Policy,
Associate Professor of Hospitality and Tourism
Lydia A. Watkins, D.N.P., R.N., C.P.N.P., C.N.E., Dean of the School of Nursing and
Health Sciences, Professor of Nursing
Christopher J. Wilhelm, Ph.D., Professor of History
Scott Williamson, M.M.C., Professor of Practice: Marketing and Communication
Aaron Yeager, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Renren Zhao, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics

THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA

1964-1966: Inaugural Brunswick Class	The College began operations as “Brunswick College” with an initial class of 269 students, 11 full-time teaching faculty members, and 25 full-time staff. In 1966, 28 students were awarded associate degrees at the College’s first graduation. Over the next four decades, the College offered associate degree programs as well as postsecondary technical and adult programs.
1992: Camden Instruction Began	The Board of Regents authorized an off-site instructional unit to be located in Camden County to serve students in the region. Classes were offered one year later in the former Kingsland Elementary School until the Camden Center site was opened in 2004.
1996: Community College Status	To better reflect the broader mission of serving the educational needs of the surrounding coastal communities, the College was renamed “Coastal Georgia Community College.”
2007: State College Status	<i>College Degree Access for Coastal Southeast Georgia</i> , a report to the USG Chancellor, recommended “senior college” status for the College, noting that the campus is in one of the state’s most desirable locations and has one of the largest acreages within the System. The report called for the new “senior college” to offer a wide range of targeted baccalaureate degrees and to become a “destination campus to attract Georgians from other regions.”
2008: Baccalaureate Degrees Began	The College was renamed “College of Coastal Georgia” and was approved to offer the inaugural set of baccalaureate degrees in business administration, early childhood/special education, middle grades education, and nursing. The master plan for the College shifted to “1) serve significantly increasing numbers of people from its 12-county region, and 2) be a destination College, attracting students from elsewhere in Georgia and, to a lesser extent, from other states and nations.” Over the last decade, the College has implemented a full array of innovative baccalaureate programs and community engagement strategies.
2012: Student Housing Offered	The College began offering student housing, which has grown today to two on-campus student housing complexes as well as off-campus housing.
Today:	Today, the College has a fall enrollment of over 3,400 students, employs over 200 full-time faculty and staff, offers 20 baccalaureate degrees as well as associate degrees in core curriculum and three career associate degrees. The College graduates over 550 students each year, with roughly half earning a baccalaureate degree.

ALMA MATER

*Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
Hear the song we raise to thee;
Fount of wisdom, Seat of knowledge,
We do pledge our loyalty.*

*Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
Symbol of the joys of youth;
Lead us on as we grow older,
Help us keep thy ways of truth.*

*Through the years, dear Coastal Georgia
Memories bonds will hold you near;
For all wisdom and all knowledge,
We lift up our thanks sincere.*

*Alma Mater, Alma Mater
Coastal Georgia hail to thee;
Alma Mater, Alma Mater
Shine through all eternity.*
