



A newsletter for the alumni of the College of Coastal Georgia, Coastal Georgia Community College, Brunswick College, and Brunswick Junior College.



Greetings Mariner Alumni,

With the new semester rocking and rolling, we are excited to see students back on campus enjoying the college lifestyle. Though it might look a little different than how you remember it, the enthusiasm is still here. Masks and all have not deterred our students from showing their Mariner Pride, and with the first week of classes under our belt it has been smooth sailing.

Now, with the students looking ahead, so are we. We hope to bring some new forms of engagement for our alumni in the near future—from Facebook live events, to meet and greets on campus, or in your backyard. We hope to gain some momentum around reengaging your interest in your alma mater. You are our legacy, and we want you to know you can always come back. As a volunteer or advisor, there are many roles that alumni can play to help guide our ship to brighter horizons.

Everyone has faced some hurdles the last few months, but we hope that our monthly newsletter becomes a bright light during these trying times. We will be sharing stories of hope and growth here at the College and in the lives of our alumni. As the future is uncertain, I know our Mariners will forge ahead.

Stay safe and healthy everyone! Go Mariners!

Casey Hanak, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Engagement

Alumni Spotlight: Kellsie Furness

"Growing Together at Coastal"

Congratulations to alums Kellsie Hall and James Furness for tying the knot on August 1, 2020. Kellsie shares their love story in her own words:

James and I are high school sweethearts. We met in the Glynn Academy band when I was 14 years old and he was 16. After being good friends for about a year, we started dating—and obviously it worked out! He started attending the College of Coastal Georgia in fall 2014 and started the College's pep band. I would help him when I could, to get music and things organized as it became a couple's project for us while it was getting started. When I got to Coastal in fall 2016, we were both so excited to be going to school together again! We would walk each other to class, eat lunch together on campus, and help each other study—typical college, couple things. One semester, we were in the same statistics class. It was such a fun experience for us to be able to partner up in the classroom, and work together in a way we hadn't before. Throughout our time at Coastal, we went from being young kids who didn't have a care in the world to being adults who were getting ready to enter the workforce and figure out the next chapter of life. It was interesting for us to learn and understand how our relationship was growing and changing as we were.

Looking back on those few forming years at Coastal, I am so grateful for the community we had surrounding us to help make us into the people we are now. James and I knew early on in our relationship that we were each other's person and that one day we'd be married. Our time at Coastal was really spent solidifying that and making it a reality.

He graduated from the College in May 2018 and we got engaged later that summer. August 1 had a special meaning to us because it was our anniversary. August 1, 2020 marked seven years of us being together, so we chose that date even before we were engaged—plus I wanted to graduate from college as well before we got married. So it all worked out perfectly since I graduated May of this year!



In The News

[Frontline Heroes: Raymond Quinones-Ortega](#)

[Frontline Heroes: Haley Allen, R.N.](#)

[CCGA students return to campus for fall semester](#)

[College sees record summer enrollment](#)

[Coastal Georgia Levels Up with New Esports Club](#)

Around Campus



Moving In: This year's move-in process was a success. Instead of happening over the course of one weekend, move-in was spread over a number of days. Students and their families were given the choice of two options for move-in—Stop. Drop and Roll or General Move-In Day. Stop. Drop



First Day of Class: Campus was alive once again as students attended their first day of classes on August 17. Students stopped by the Week of Welcome tent next to the Zell Bell to ask questions about classes, learn about upcoming campus activities, pick up some snacks, and get an extra face mask. Students were happy to

and Roll allotted students 90 minutes to move their items into the dorm, set it up, and then leave the building. General Move-In Day was the same, but instead of leaving students were allowed to stay and officially reside in the dorms. No matter which option that was selected, the hustle and bustle of students on campus was a welcomed sight and sound.



President's Cookout: President Michelle Johnston hosted the President's Cookout to welcome back students. Students enjoyed a lunch of burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, desserts, snacks, and more served by Dr. Johnston and her senior leadership team on the outdoor patio of the Student Activity Center.

be back on campus and see some familiar faces—even with the face mask on.

The first week of classes went very well, leaving many with great hope about what the rest of the semester.



Intercultural Resource Center: The Office of Diversity and Inclusion held a ribbon cutting at the new Intercultural Resource Center in the SAC. The College's former Call Center was transformed into a supportive space for students—in particular students of color, LGBTQ+ students, low-income students, first-generation students, and other traditionally underserved populations. The center will also serve as a place where students who are passionate about diversity and social justice can learn the skills to create inclusive environments on campus.



Preparing for Fall 2020

The emergence of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has definitely changed everyone's lives. At the College, we remain vigilant in continuing to provide quality instruction during the midst of the pandemic. The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is top priority, and in order to provide face-to-face instruction,

the College has implemented a number of procedures to keep everyone safe on campus:

- All faculty, staff, students, and visitors are required to wear a face covering on campus and in buildings, with a few exceptions, such as students in their dorm rooms, alone in a study room, staff in their offices, and in an outdoor space with adequate room.

- Reminders about physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and the maximum occupancy limit of certain areas are posted throughout campus.

- Common areas in buildings, such as restrooms, handrails, push bars, and door handles are cleaned on a daily basis.

- Hand sanitizing stations are located in each building.

- Work accommodations have been made for employees who are high risk, immunocompromised, or have other concerns.

- Classroom instruction is being delivered in-person, online, and also in hybrid formats. Hybrid formats include courses where on one day a portion of students attend class in-person, while the rest participate online, then the groups of students switch on a different day.

- Classrooms have been reconfigured and section sizes reduced to allow for social distancing.

- In relation to dining services, masks/face coverings and social distancing requirements are still in place. Face coverings may be removed when seated at tables while eating.

To learn what other measures the College is taking, click [here](#).

Here For You. Hear From You.

The Mariner's Log newsletter is dedicated to you—our alumni. We want to hear from you and tailor this newsletter to your interests. What do you want to see in the newsletter? How can we improve it? Is there an aspect about the College we should include? What are your ideas and suggestions? We want this newsletter to not only connect you to the College but also reflect the wonderful graduates who have attended here. Share with us news of your job promotions, births, marriages, awards, accomplishments, etc. By working together we can keep the Mariner family going strong well into the future.

Please contact Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Engagement Casey Hanak at chanak@ccga.edu or email the Alumni Association at alumni@ccga.edu with your ideas, news, updates, and questions about campus services.

Mark Your Calendar!

There is always something going on at the College of Coastal Georgia. Here are some upcoming events:

*Mariner Volleyball Home Games: Coastal Georgia vs

-Keiser University on Saturday, September 12 at 2 p.m.

-Florida Memorial College on Saturday, September 26 at 2 p.m.

-Brewton Parker College on Wednesday, October 21 at 7 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no visitors will be allowed into the Howard Coffin Gym and Coach Cox Court other than those on the home team's pass list. Visitors will be able to watch the matches/games via the video streaming service provided at www.coastalgeorgiasports.com. Click "Watch Live".

*Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 to October 15. The College will host a variety of in-person and virtual programs to highlight the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. Specific events to be announced.

*Mariner Fest TBD for October.

*Mariner Alumni Facebook Live event TBD for October.

Be sure to check out the College's online calendar regularly for more information on events you can attend.

Stay in Touch

We would love to stay in touch with you. Please tell us about yourself and what you've been up to after college. Update your contact information [here](#).

Questions? Contact alumni@ccga.edu.



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