



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

From the Desk of President Johnston



Happy 2020! I hope this year is off to a great start for you. We are excited to share this edition of our alumni newsletter to keep you updated on College activities.

As we enter a new decade, I reflect on how much the College has changed over the years. We have grown from a two-year community college to a four-year institution that has become an integral part of this region. I'm so proud of our vibrant collegiate community and exceptional academic programs. It's this identity, coupled with the dedication of faculty and staff to student success, that first drew me to the College. There is no doubt that our future is bright!

I hope you will be a part of our Homecoming weekend celebration on Saturday, February 22. Activities will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the lawn of the Student Activity Center. If you graduated from or attended the College, you will always be a Mariner, and homecoming is a wonderful time to visit your old stomping grounds, catch up with friends, interact with current students, and learn more about what is going on at your College! I hope to see you for the festivities, including cheering our men's and women's basketball teams to victory in their last games of the season. Who better to cheer on the Mariners to victory than our very own alumni? The women's basketball game starts at 2 p.m. and men's at 4 p.m. Admission to both games is free for our alumni.

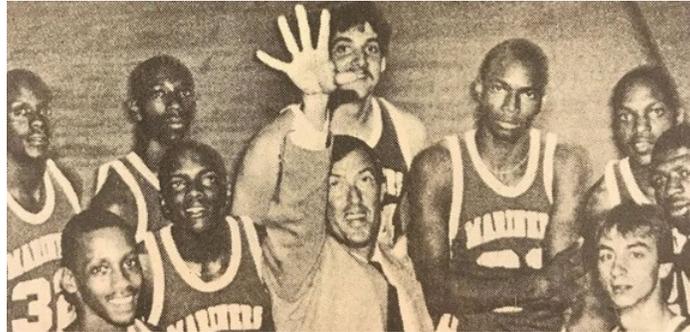
It's always such a pleasure to interact with alumni. We appreciate the experiences you've had at the College and the wisdom you can share with students about finding their own versions of success. Thank you so much for your invaluable support, and please reach out to me anytime by cell phone (205.441.3659) or email (president@ccga.edu). I would love to hear from you about how the College impacted your life and how you are doing now.

Go Mariners!

Michelle R. Johnston

Michelle R. Johnston, Ph.D.
President, College of Coastal Georgia

Athletics Update



Honoring Coach Gerald Cox: The home of the Mariner men's and women's basketball teams has a new name, the "Coach Gerald Cox Court." A special dedication ceremony was held on January 11, to name the basketball court after the legendary coach. Cox served in several roles during his 32-year career at the College, including director of athletics and Physical Education instructor in addition to his coaching duties. At his retirement in 2014, Cox's teams had compiled a 497-453 record with the Mariners, prompting the College to name him "Men's Basketball Head Coach Emeritus" in recognition of his contributions. Current Men's Basketball Head Coach Jesse Watkins, who also played under Cox, said Cox taught him and his teammates the importance of hard work, commitment, responsibility, and respect. He thanked Cox for also being his friend.

Finishing at the Top: The Mariner Men's Golf team finished their fall season atop of the National Polls. They have been ranked No. 1 on the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) poll and No. 1 on Golfstat for three consecutive rankings. Mariners are excited for the spring season, where they will continue to prove that they deserve the top position in the nation.

2020 Mariner Golf Challenge: The 2020 Mariner Golf Challenge will be hosted on Sunday, February 23, at the Sea Island Plantation Course. Community members, alumni, and friends of the College are invited to participate in the annual golf event that will benefit the successful men's and women's golf teams. The cost to play is \$250 per person or \$1000 per foursome and includes an 18-hole round of golf, golf clinic, and post-round reception. Shotgun start will begin at 12:30 p.m. To register for the golf event, become a sponsor, or donate directly to the golf teams, visit <http://coastalgolf.givesmart.com>.



For more stories, visit coastalgeorgiasports.com.

Around Campus





Alumni Gathering: On October 11, the Alumni Association held an Alumni Gathering event on the rooftop terrace of the Campus Center in Brunswick. The Alumni Gathering culminated a week of celebrations in honor of the investiture of the sixth president of the College, Dr. Michelle Johnston. Alumni from every generation of the College—Brunswick Junior College, Coastal Georgia Community College, and the College of Coastal Georgia—enjoyed an evening of catching up with old friends, eating food, meeting the president, and learning about what’s new at the College.

Fall Commencement: The ranks of the Alumni Association recently increased with the awarding of 212 degrees at the College’s Fall Commencement on December 15, at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. The commencement speaker was Lori George Billingsley, the Global Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for The Coca-Cola Company. Billingsley talked about her own educational and professional journey and encouraged the new alumni to not take their education for granted. Olivia Clark gave the charge to the graduating class. She expressed how much the College impacted her life.

New Food Pantry: The Student Government Association opened a new food and clothing pantry on campus called “The Deck.” In a survey conducted by SGA, nearly 66 percent of Coastal Georgia students reported previous experience or currently experiencing food insecurity. To address this need and remove the stigma related to food hunger, SGA created the pantry for any student in need. The pantry features canned goods, including vegetarian options, and clothing. SGA President Kelsey Rios said that it was “time for our students to feel the love that we have for each other.”

The Deck is located on campus in the Student Activity Center. SGA plans to keep the pantry stocked through ongoing food and clothing drives. Community donations are welcome. Those wishing to donate to the pantry can email sga@ccqa.edu.

Cyber Security Degree: The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Cybersecurity degree is gaining a lot of momentum. Housed within the School of Business and Public Management, students are learning how to analyze and safeguard information in an ever-increasing, interconnected, digital world. Assistant Professor Dr. Nelbert “Doc” St. Clair, who is leading the program, has facilitated partnerships between the College and cybersecurity education organizations that provide additional curriculum, certifications, and hands-on learning experiences for students. Cybersecurity students have already participated in several competitions that serve as virtual training grounds. In these contests, students’ skills and knowledge are put to the test in real-world scenarios and cyber-attacks. St. Clair anticipates that the cybersecurity program at the College will continue to grow.



J. Quinton Staples II

New Director of Diversity Initiatives

The College has welcomed J. Quinton Staples, II to the Mariner family as the new Director of Diversity Initiatives. The Director of Diversity Initiatives is a new position at the College, and, in this role, Staples will work collaboratively across the campus and the local community to support the recruitment, retention, and graduation of traditionally marginalized and underrepresented student populations. Staples earned a bachelor’s degree in strategic communication from Elon University and a Master of Education degree in student affairs administration and higher education from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Before working at the College, Staples worked in multicultural outreach and education at the University of South Florida in Tampa and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Staples is especially looking forward to working with students. Students are the reason he wanted a career in higher education, he said, and they continue to be a source of motivation. He views his new position as an opportunity to create a lasting legacy and make a difference at Coastal Georgia.

Mark Your Calendar!

There is always something going on at the College of Coastal Georgia. Here are some upcoming events that you are welcome to attend.

*Homecoming: February 22 at the Student Activity Center on the Brunswick campus. Activities will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. There will be food trucks, games, face painting, inflatables, and more. Please bring canned goods to support our campus food pantry "The Deck."

*Homecoming Basketball Games: February 22 at the Coach Gerald Cox Court. Women's Basketball vs Warner University will start at 2 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Warner University will start at 4 p.m. FREE entrance for alumni.

*Spring Commencement: May 9 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, starting at 2 p.m.

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.



We Want to Hear from You

The Mariners' Log is here to serve our alumni and connect with the College. Tell us what you want to see in the newsletter and share your suggestions on how we can make it better. For questions or comments, email us at alumni@ccga.edu.

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One College Dr. Brunswick, GA 31520