

The Mariners' Log

Charting the Course Since 1961

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



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KALEB CURL

“Where I Was Supposed to Be”

Kaleb shares in own words about his experience at the College.



The College of Coastal Georgia was honestly a very last option for me. At the time, I was planning on going to a private college in North Georgia for an entirely different degree. The only reason I didn't go was because of affordability—and that was after multiple scholarships. Luckily, Coastal Georgia was brought to my attention—about two weeks before classes started—and I knew the second I saw pictures of the campus that's where I wanted to go. I decided to pursue a degree in general business because I didn't really know what I wanted at the time, but I knew I could change if needed. I was very fortunate in having come from the Athens, Georgia area to get the last open spot in the dorms in August 2014. When I learned that I had received housing, I knew Coastal was where I was supposed to be, or it wouldn't have happened.

My freshman year in College was one of the best years of my whole life. I made many lifelong friends and memories, and also met the girl I now get to call my wife—Ashlan. Continuing into the next three years, I was unsure exactly which concentration to pursue. I was torn between finance and marketing. I ended up choosing marketing after concluding that I'm more of a creative person than a numbers person. I think that was one of the best choices I made in my whole life! By the time I graduated, I had been taught by some of the best in the marketing industry, including Mike Tigani, Scott Williamson, and even had the guy who branded Coke Zero as a guest speaker. I was also fortunate enough to be an intern at h20 creative group. When I got to experience those courses junior and senior year, I knew for sure looking back that I had me the right choice.

Fast forward to graduation, I searched for jobs in the local area and had a few different interviews. The job I managed to get was actually at the apartment community I had lived at for the past three years. I was hired as an assistant property manager. I was happy to be able to use my knowledge in marketing and got commercials filmed, had set up professional photo shoots, and ran ads on social media for the apartment community. After about a year, in 2019 my wife and I decided to move up closer to family and the mountains. I was able to obtain a job as a property manager in Athens and managed the operations of over 500 rental properties in the area.

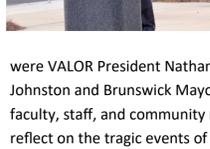
Unfortunately, that job didn't turn out as well as I had hoped. My long-term goal is to grow within a company personally, professionally, and financially. I learned very quickly that I wouldn't be able to do that there. After some job searching, I recently earned a position as a project manager for a construction development company that has projects along the southeastern coast—including Brunswick and Kingsland. It's kind of crazy to me how things have come full circle. I would have never guessed that a little over a year after driving out of Brunswick, I would be flying back into Brunswick to check out the job progress of one of the new developments.

Looking back, my experience and degree at Coastal Georgia are what got me to where I am now—and I'm proud of that. If you told me my freshman year of college that this is where I would be, I wouldn't have believed you! Now here I am, after leveraging my knowledge and experience, and just two years after graduating from Coastal, I am helping to manage the overall development from start to finish for multiple projects in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina worth more than \$30 million. Also, my wife is very happy as an elementary special education teacher after earning a dual degree from the College.

Needless to say, Coastal Georgia played a huge part in my life, to the point where I wanted to reach out and thank the school for providing me the foundation it did. I think Coastal is a very underrated school—but it won't be for long. There will continue to be more people like myself, my wife, and our college friends who all graduate and move on to be successful in their fields—all while advocating for the College every step of the way. People are often shocked to find out that I didn't go to UGA, but instead went to the College of Coastal Georgia and already made it this far professionally. I think it's a great sign for the College and what it means to go there. So again, thank you to everyone at Coastal Georgia who helped me get where I am today. I couldn't have done it without you!

-Kaleb Curl

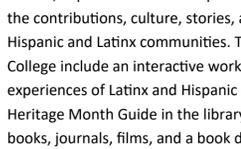
AROUND CAMPUS



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

VALOR (Veterans Academic Learning Opportunities and Resources) hosted the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the yardarm on the Brunswick campus. Guest speakers for the ceremony

were VALOR President Nathan Noe, President Michelle Johnston and Brunswick Mayor Cornell Harvey. Students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered together to reflect on the tragic events of that day, and understand the importance of unity.



Hispanic Heritage Month

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion kicked off celebrations for Hispanic Heritage

Month, Sept. 15—Oct. 15. Hispanic Heritage Month honors the contributions, culture, stories, and traditions of Hispanic and Latinx communities. This year's events at the College include an interactive workshop about the experiences of Latinx and Hispanic peoples; a Hispanic Heritage Month Guide in the library; and a Hispanic Heritage Month Book Display in the library; daily spotlight on famous Latinx and Hispanic people in the world; and much more.



School of Business and Public Management Names New Executive-in-Residence After Reg Murphy Retires

Reg Murphy has retired as the Brown Family Executive-in-Residence at the School of Business and Public Management. He was the first to serve in this role, which he did successfully since 2012. He became a favorite among faculty across campus.

Bill Carter has been named as the new executive-in-residence. Carter had an extensive career in telecommunications working with AT&T, started a company that was worth \$18 billion within its first two years, and has testified before Congress regarding the correlation of advanced communications and economic development.

He is eager to share his over 25 years of business, leadership, and management experience with students and faculty at the College.



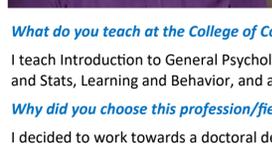
Mariner Fest!

The annual Mariner Fest is back this fall on Saturday, October 10, starting at 11 a.m. Although this year's Mariner Fest may look different compared to previous years, all alumni are welcome to return to campus to enjoy food trucks, games, and other activities. Come and join us, as you catch up with old friends, see your favorite professors, learn about what's new at your alma mater, and have some fun. We hope to see you there. Make sure to stop by the Alumni Association tent for some giveaways. More details to follow.



MEET A MARINER

Dr. Aurora Ramos Nuñez, Assistant Professor of Psychology



Meet Dr. Aurora Ramos Nuñez. She is originally from San Luis San Pedro, Guerrero, Mexico and has been teaching at the College of Coastal Georgia for close to four years. Read how Dr. Nuñez is making a difference at the College.

What is your academic background?

I obtained my Associates in Arts Degrees from San Diego Community College, my Bachelor in Arts Degree with a major in Psychology from San Diego State University, and my Master in Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Developmental Psychology from The University of Houston. I completed a postdoctoral training at Rice University, examining neural mechanisms related to language.

What do you teach at the College of Coastal Georgia?

I teach Introduction to General Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Foundations of Brain and Behavior, Research Methods and Stats, Learning and Behavior, and a Global Issues Brain Health class.

Why did you choose this profession/field?

I decided to work towards a doctoral degree and to take the academic route, because I wanted to return what I had received as I was an undergraduate student. As I was working towards my bachelor's degree, I obtained help from some faculty and staff via programs specialized to encourage students from underrepresented groups—like myself—to go into research and academia careers, where we could serve as role models for newer generations. This way, the shortage of Hispanic/Latinas in such areas could begin to decrease.

What are you teaching in your classes?

In my classes, I teach students how to use psychology in their personal, social, and professional lives. With the many courses I teach, I encourage students to learn how to get to know themselves; how to relate to others; how to decide on their future careers; how to understand the importance of classes, such as Research Methods and Stats in their everyday lives, as well as in their careers; how to understand the importance of keeping healthy habits (quality sleep, exercise, social interactions) to have a healthy and sharp brain; and how to understand the world around them.

If you're doing research, what is your research topic?

My current research involves the use of online surveys and includes my own research interests as well as those of my students. My research interest follows up on neuroscience research I conducted while I was at the University of Houston and later at Rice University, using neuroimaging techniques to study brain and cognitive processes connections. Here at the College of Coastal Georgia, I have started research projects with exchange students from Pakistan, examining language abilities, such as bilingualism and multilingualism in people from the United States and other countries. Specifically, I am interested in learning how language status shapes how people view themselves and how others view them as well. The variables that I examine include self-esteem, perception, attitudes, tolerance, acceptance, etc.

My students' topics vary a lot. They can be anything examining the relationship between sleep and relationship conflict; studying connections among Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and altruism; looking into the effect of negative feedback on a person's flow-like state; and emotional intelligence and its association to social skills, mindfulness, and problematic phone usage.

You are participating in Hispanic Heritage Month this year. What are you presenting and why is this an important topic?

During the Hispanic Heritage Month, I will be presenting a short talk about various Hispanic and Latino/Latina who have migrated and made a life in the United States. I will also be sharing my own story as a Latina immigrant. Given the current atmosphere, shedding light to topics of immigration and specifically to discussions about people who immigrate to this country looking for a better life, as well as wanting to contribute to the prosperity of this country, is very essential.

What do you enjoy about working at the College?

Working at the College, I enjoy many things. This includes the fact that our College is small and this allows me to have a lot of interactions with our students. By interacting with our students, I am able to advise them on future careers, teach them about psychology, and get to know them. I love working with my colleagues who, like me, work very hard to deliver the best learning experience for our students. And I love our staff members who dedicate their time to get things done so that our students have all they need to succeed. Altogether, I love the community we have formed in our College.

What do you wish other people knew about the College?

I wish other people knew about that at our College, we have a tight community that works together to help our students advance and meet their career and personal goals.

What advice do you have for students in college?

My advice for students in college is to be persistent and never give up. To also understand that there may be some things they do not know now, but they will in the future. Dr. Carol Dweck referred to this as the “Power of Yet”, which means, “I do not know how to do this but I will”. Thus, don't be too hard on yourself, you will get there, I promise.

What are your hobbies?

I love reading fiction and nonfiction books, and learning about new things. I enjoy reading news articles from National Geographic, travel magazines, New Scientist, New York times, and Discover magazine. Also on topics such as the universe, animal behavior, psychology, neuroscience, travel, cities, anthropology, etc. I love doing many activities with my spouse such as taking walks on Jekyll Island, riding our bikes, hiking, taking road trips, having deep conversations, and enjoying morning coffee on the weekends at our porch.

Favorite books?

“The Water Dance” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Well of Loneliness” by Raddlyffe Hall, “David and Goliath” by Malcolm Gladwell, “In the Name of Salome” by Julia Alvarez, “The House of Spirits” by Isabel Allende, “Siddhartha” by Hermann Hesse, “The Years with Laura Diaz” by Carlos Fuentes, “Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain” by David Eagleman, “Who's in Charge? Free Will and the Science of the Brain” by Michael Gazzaniga, and many more.

What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is to travel through South American countries.

Do you have a favorite quote?

“I don't study to know more, but to ignore less.” “Yo no estudio para saber mas, sino para ignorar menos.” -Juana Inez de La Cruz.

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 to hear from you 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:

*Hispanic Heritage Month events: September 15 to October 15

-From Famous Hispanic/Latinx People to Dreamers to Me to You: October 9. An interactive workshop to share experiences about Hispanics and Latinx people in hopes of broadening our cultural knowledge of different groups of people. Hosted by Dr. Aurora Ramos Nuñez via Microsoft Teams. For more information email diversity@ccga.edu.

-Being Afro-Latinx: October 14. Interactive group discussion via Microsoft Teams to discuss the intersections of having Latinx and African heritages. Hosted by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. Program will start at 6 p.m. For more information email diversity@ccga.edu.

-Hispanic Heritage Month Guide & Virtual Book Display: All month-long. Gould Library will have a display of book celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The library will also provide its Hispanic Heritage Month Guide, which includes links to books, journals, films, and more available in the library and GALLIEO.

*Mariner Fest: Saturday, October 10, from 11 a.m.—2 p.m. The annual Mariner Fest is back! Alumni are more than welcome to return to campus and enjoy the food trucks, games, and other activities at their alma mater. Make sure to stop by the Alumni Association tent for some giveaways. We'll also be streaming live from Mariner Fest. Remember to like and follow us on Facebook.

*Mariner Volleyball Home Games: Coastal Georgia vs

- Webber International on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:30 p.m.
- St. Thomas University on Saturday, October 10, at 2:00 p.m.
- Brewton-Parker on Wednesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m.
- Ave Maria University on Saturday, October 24, at 2:00 p.m.

*Mariner Women's Basketball Home Games: Coastal Georgia vs

- South Georgia Technical College on Saturday, October 17, 2:00 p.m.
- Brewton-Parker on Friday, October 23, 5:30 p.m.
- Reinhardt University on Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 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.”

Be sure to check out the College's online calendar and Athletics' 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.

