

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.



To view more photos, check out the College's Facebook [page](#).

Alumni Q&A: Lexie Downey '19

Lexie Downey graduated with a dual major in Early Childhood and Special Education in 2019. Since then, she has been doing an amazing job of teaching and is now pursuing graduate work in education at Purdue University.

What inspired you to enter the teaching profession?

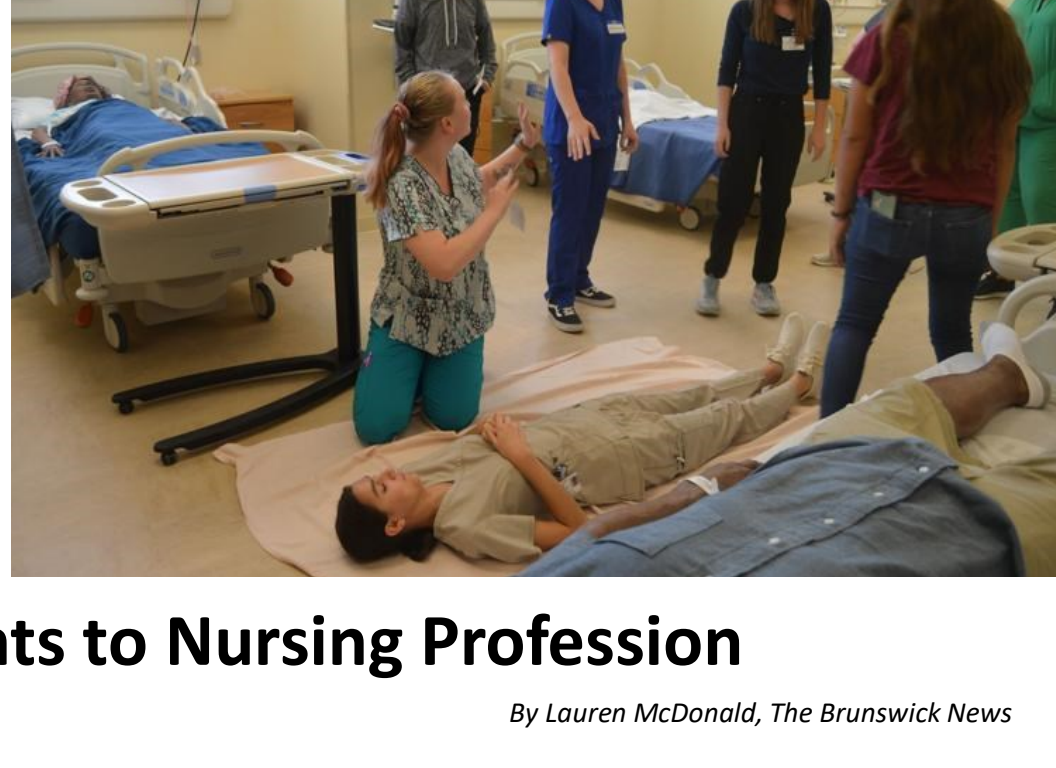
My interest in becoming an educator didn't truly develop until my freshman year at CCGA. I spent many hours tutoring fellow athletes at the college, and shortly thereafter began working for The ATTIC as a supplemental instructor. I quickly developed a love for teaching matched only by my love for learning, and began to seek out related opportunities such as coaching youth club volleyball, and tutoring young students at the local Children in Action Sports Club. Becoming a teacher allowed me to combine my tutoring skills, coaching skills and passion for working with children.

Why did you chose to attend the College of Coastal Georgia?
When selecting a college, I started out looking for opportunities close to home. Little did I know that CCGA would quickly become my home away from home! The amazing volleyball program, affordability, respected academics, and beautiful location were all factors that ultimately led me to select CCGA for my undergraduate studies.

How would you describe your experience in the Elementary/Special Education dual major degree and certification program?

My experience with the teacher education program at CCGA was excellent. There are very few programs that offer the option to earn a dual certification in both early childhood and special education simultaneously. In the current public school climate, in order to best serve our student populations, there is an immense need for all general education teachers to possess the skillsets of special education professionals. I also appreciated a number of unique field experience opportunities at CCGA, through which I was able to spend time teaching in several different grade levels during my junior and senior years.

Read more about Lexie's experiences [here](#).



Camp Introduces Students to Nursing Profession

By Lauren McDonald, The Brunswick News

The scene unfolds quickly. A woman on the ground claims the bicycle accident left her with no feeling in her legs and feet.

Another person steps up, takes charge and directs nearby witnesses, saying, "Give me space. I need you to go over there. I need you to walk away. I need you to step back and give her space."

Emotions were running high, even though the fabricated scenario took place in the safe and calm classroom of College of Coastal Georgia's nursing school. The quick role play activity was meant to let the students practice some of the crisis response skills they'd just learned, and it wrapped up a week's worth of activities during the college's summer nursing camp.

The camp, open to rising high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen, was hosted in partnership with CCGA and Southeast Georgia Health System.

Lydia Watkins, dean of the college's School of Nursing and Health Sciences, said the camp will hopefully serve as a recruitment tool for the health system and the college's nursing program. The bigger goal is to attract more students to the field of nursing.

"Right now we're in one of the biggest nursing shortages ever, so at the hospital and the college it's a big focus of ours to get more nursing students in and get more nurses," she said.

The health system and college recently announced a \$2 million expansion partnership intended to increase the nursing school's enrollment and improve student success.

Shannon Wainright, director for women and children services at Southeast Georgia Health System, worked closely with Watkins and other college and hospital staff to organize the summer program.

The college intended to first hold the camp in the summer of 2020, but that plan fell through due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The nursing shortage and recruitment needs the camp is meant to help address have only worsened in those few years.

Over the course of four full days, students learned from hospital and college staff about some of the basics of the nursing profession — communication, patient privacy, ethics — and what a day in the job can look like.

Read more about Nurse Camp [here](#).

Five Star Credit Union Foundation Makes \$10,000 Scholarship Grant to College

The Five Star Credit Union Foundation awarded the College of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick \$10,000 for incoming freshmen. Providing scholarships is one of the main ways the Five Star Credit Union Foundation removes the financial barrier to college for students in the Wiregrass.

"We are so thankful to the Five Star Credit Union Foundation for their generous gift to Coastal Georgia students," said College of Coastal Georgia President Michelle R. Johnston. "This scholarship will make a significant difference in the lives of students and will allow them to stay focused on their education."

The \$10,000 grant will enable a student to be able to attend college tuition free this upcoming school year. Recipients will be selected from the College of Coastal Georgia scholarship program.

For more information on how to apply for scholarships, please contact Cammie Heinhold in the Office of Financial Aid or email scholarships@ccga.edu.

CLASS NOTES



Matvey Osiprov '17 has joined King & Prince Seafood as the business systems programmer analyst. He is responsible for developing and improving business system applications, and providing helpdesk support for business system users. Matvey earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the College and is pursuing a masters in data analytics from Western Governor's University.



Bethany Hurley '19 recently celebrated her white coat ceremony at Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The ceremony marked the transition of this year's veterinary medicine students to the clinical phase of the curriculum. Bethany is on track to graduate in May 2023.



Kaelyn Tyler '22 and **Travis Simmons '22** recently traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the American Geophysical Union's Frontiers in Hydrology meeting, where they will be leading a session. This is the first Frontiers in Hydrology meeting, meaning Kaelyn and Travis will set a precedent for future sessions. Travis also presented his research poster focused on using satellite data to track changes in a variety of physical and ecological parameters over time.

LIFE UPDATES:

Alumni, we want to know what you've been up to after graduation. Please share with us your good news, job promotions, career changes, accomplishments, awards, marriages, birth announcements, and new businesses. We want to celebrate with you!

Contact us at alumni@ccga.edu and provide your name, year you graduated, and share your news which will be featured in the newsletter.

ELEVATE '22

Alumni, you have the opportunity to be Navigators and **Elevate '22**. Navigators embody the mission and passion of the College by donating \$1,000 or more to the College of Coastal Georgia Annual Fund, which supports areas such as training for our faculty and staff; service-learning and undergraduate research; student development programs outside of the classroom; and our recently-launched blended career and academic advising model.

As a Navigator, you will be helping to guide the College and reinforce our commitment to an "every student, every time" approach. Please consider making a \$1,000 donation, and remember, all gifts—no matter how big or small—will make a difference in our student's lives.

Donate Now at www.ccga.edu/Elevate

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

- Summer 2nd Session classes begins: June 28
- Campus Closed for the Fourth of July: July 4
- Boys of Summer: July 5—July 15
- Girls of Summer: July 18—July 29
- Check out the College of Coastal Georgia [Calendar](#) for all events.

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.

