

The Mariners' Log

Charting the Course Since 1961

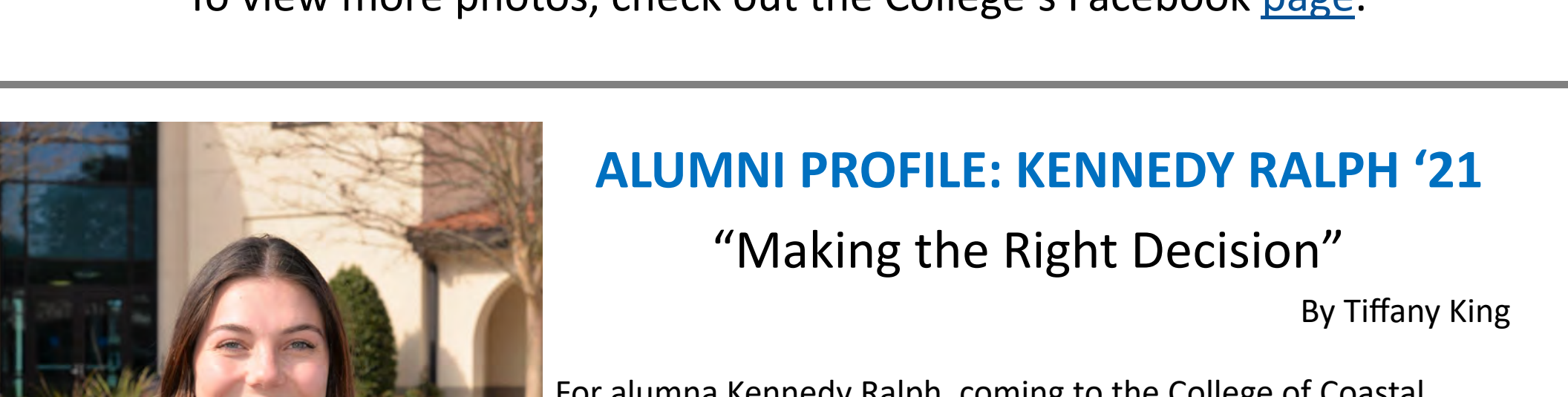
A newsletter for the alumni of the College of Coastal Georgia, Coastal Georgia Community College, Brunswick College, and Brunswick Junior College.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



GEECHEE GULLAH RING SHOUTERS



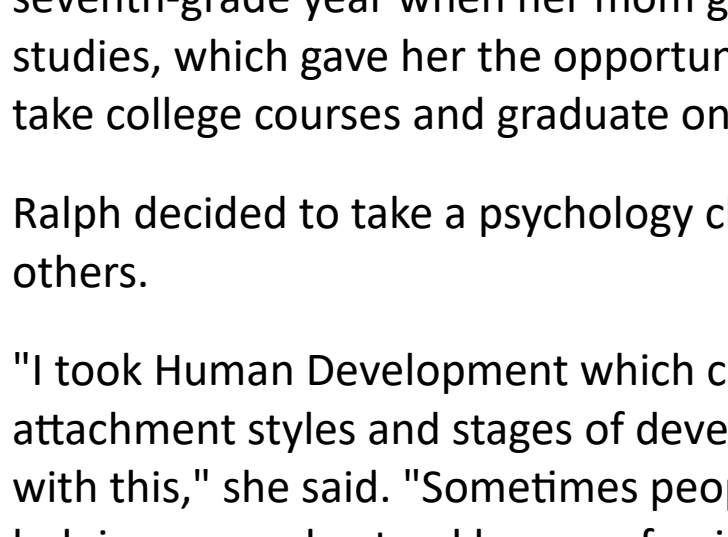
COASTAL CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP

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

ALUMNI PROFILE: KENNEDY RALPH '21

"Making the Right Decision"

By Tiffany King



For alumna Kennedy Ralph, coming to the College of Coastal Georgia was one of the best decisions she's made. Ralph graduated with a bachelor's in psychology in December 2021 after spending two years as a full-time student at the College and two years as a dual enrollment student from Brunswick High School. She was one class short of earning an associate's degree at the College when she graduated from high school in 2019. She then enrolled at the College, and she planned to complete her associate degree then transfer to another institution—but then something changed. All it took was one psychology class, and she fell in love with the field and the College's program.

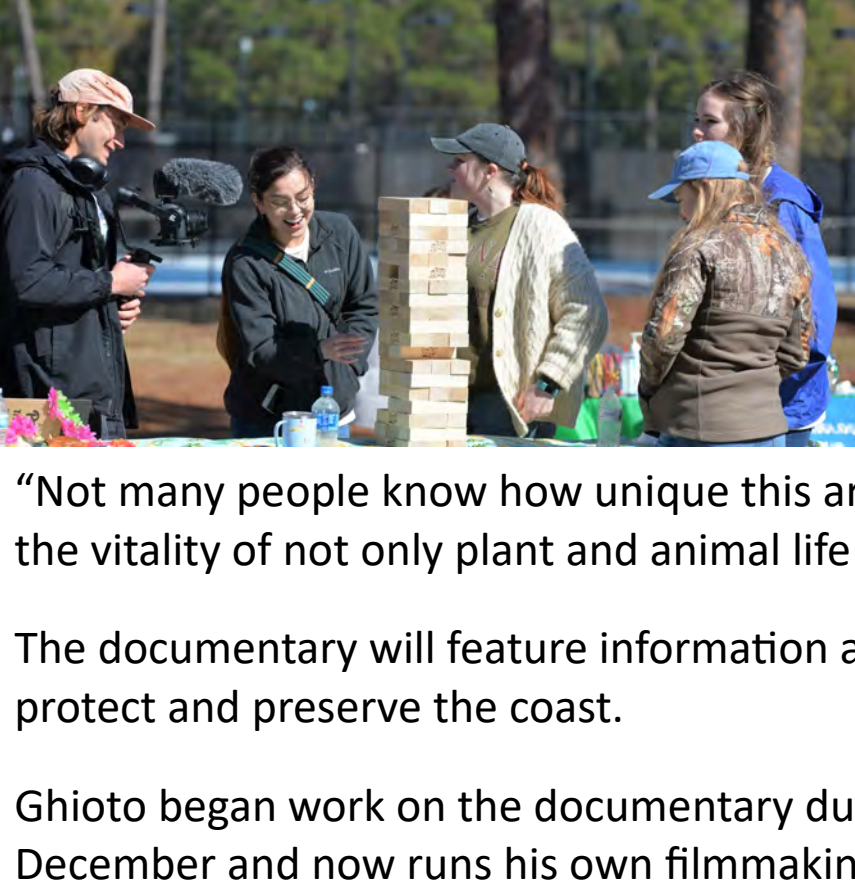
Ralph is originally from Trafalgar, Indiana. She and her family moved to Coastal Georgia at the start of her seventh-grade year when her mom got a new job in the area. She eventually found herself ahead in her studies, which gave her the opportunity in high school to either graduate early during her junior year or take college courses and graduate on time with her cohort. She chose dual enrollment at Coastal Georgia.

Ralph decided to take a psychology class to understand people's family dynamics and interactions with others.

"I took Human Development which covers a lifespan—from birth until death. We talked a lot about attachment styles and stages of development. I thought that there's probably a lot more that I can learn with this," she said. "Sometimes people can't really express certain things, but theories and textbooks were helping me understand how my family was, how my friends were, and how people operate in society. That's why I ended up liking it."

She was hooked. Through the program, she took more science-related psychology classes that covered topics such as brain behavior. Ralph became more intrigued with brain processes and found herself moving in that direction.

Read more about Kennedy [here](#).



Local Filmmaker Creating

Documentary on Coastal Issues

By Lauren McDonald, The Brunswick News

Sam Ghioto grew up in coastal Georgia but didn't learn the term "Superfund site" until a few years ago.

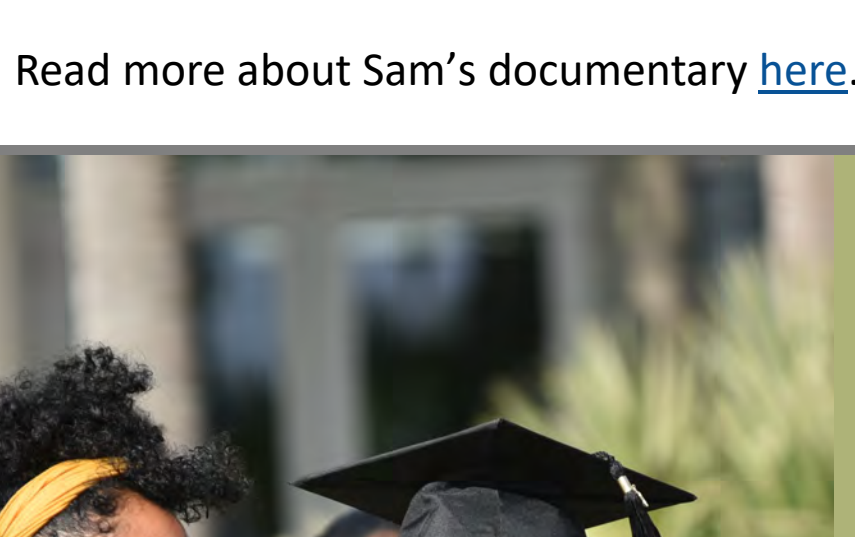
The recent College of Coastal Georgia graduate felt he should have learned much earlier about these federally designated hazardous sites where toxic waste has been detected. Glynn County has four.

Ghioto is closely familiar with the natural beauty of his home. He also works as a kayak tour guide for Southeast Adventures, and he frequently spends time in local waterways, at beaches and out on hiking and biking trails in the area.

Yet he had little idea about these major threats to coastal Georgia's environment, wildlife and residents.

"I remember one paragraph on it in school, like in sixth grade," he said. "It's not really talked about that much. I think, though, that it's a topic that everybody should know about. Raising consciousness on environmental issues is imperative because it affects the livelihood of everyone around it, right?"

Ghioto has taken this question from a philosophical query to a personal call to action and has begun work on a documentary that he hopes will fill in the gaps on what he didn't learn growing up.



"Not many people know how unique this area is and how important our waterways and marshes are to the vitality of not only plant and animal life but human life as well," he said.

The documentary will feature information about the area's conservation history and ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the coast.

Ghioto began work on the documentary during a filmmaking course last year at CCGA. He graduated in December and now runs his own filmmaking business, Sam Ghioto Studio.

Read more about Sam's documentary [here](#).

GRADUATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

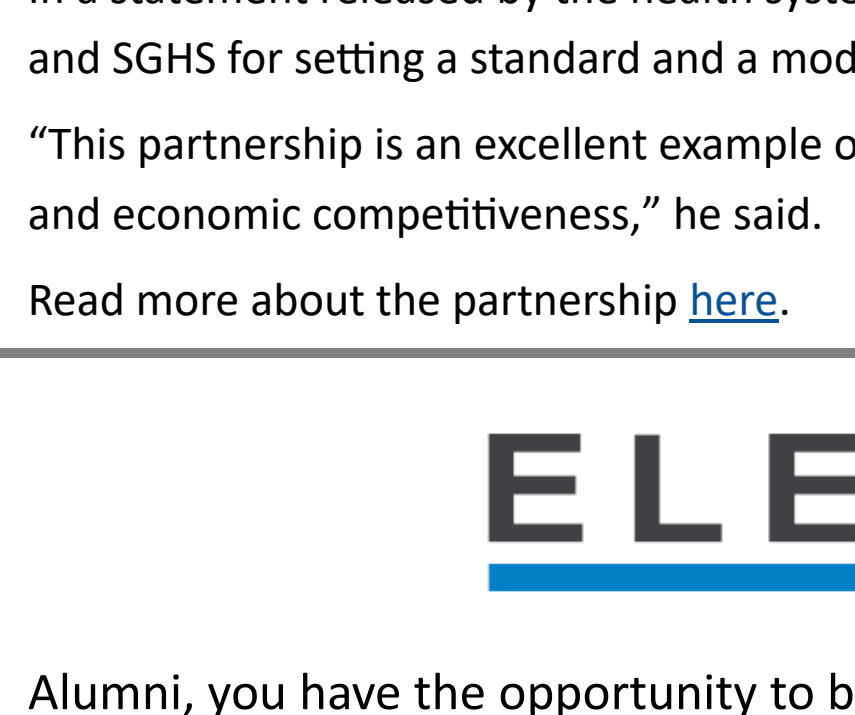
Mariner Alumni, your help is needed to make our Spring Commencement a success.

Graduation is on Saturday, May 7, at 11 a.m. at the Jekyll Island Convention Center.

We will be having one traditional ceremony with approximately 350 graduates. Please help make it a great day for our new alumni by volunteering.

Volunteers will be needed from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on graduation day. Attire is business casual.

Contact Kendra Lloyd at klloyd@ccga.edu to volunteer.



Health System, College Partnership to Expand Nursing Program

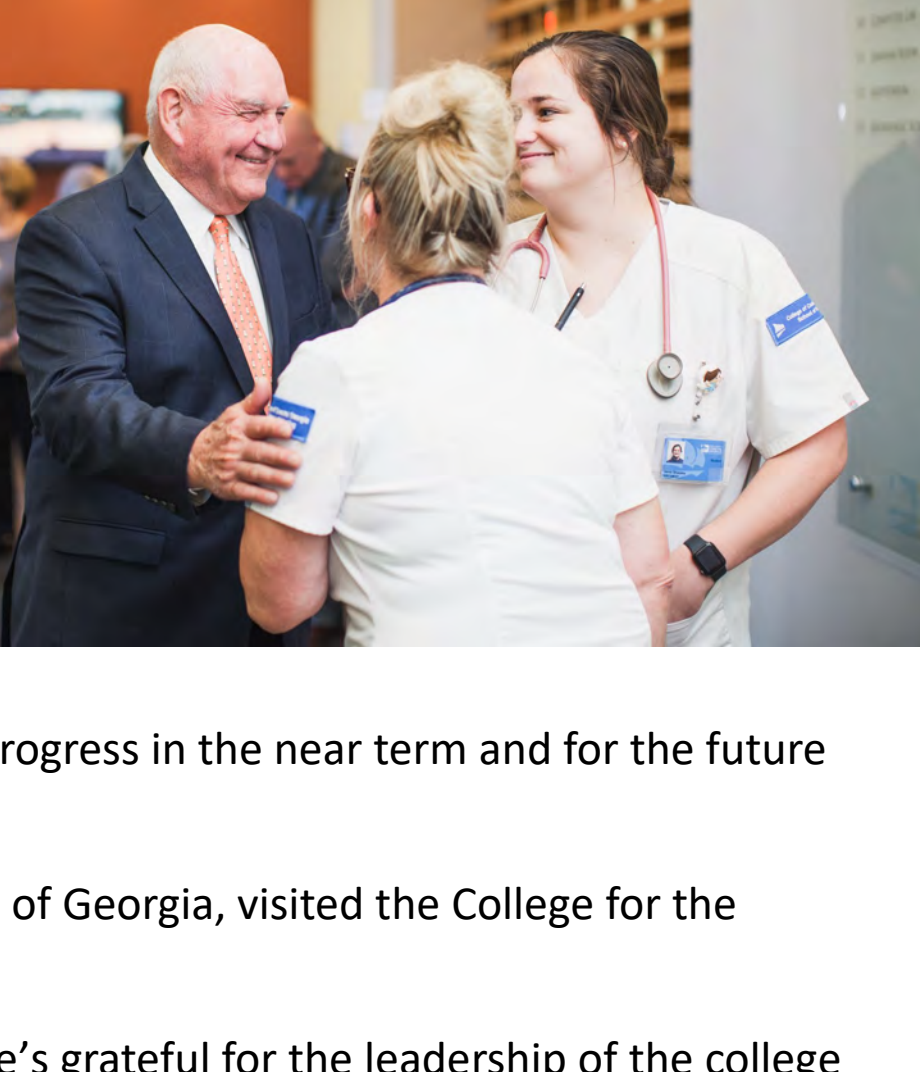


The Southeast Georgia Health System has committed to a \$2 million partnership with the College of Coastal Georgia to increase the number of registered nurses in the community through a five-year process.

"With a nursing shortage flooding our nation, including here in our own community, it is imperative to make nursing programs a priority and more readily available to eligible students," added Scott Raynes, MBA, MA, president and CEO, Southeast Georgia Health System. "This partnership will enhance the College of Coastal Georgia's ability to enroll more students. Today the upper limit that can be enrolled is 260 students. This partnership will help add faculty and increase the enrollment number to 340 students."

Increasing the number of faculty members will also allow for a spring cohort to be added to the Associate of Science in Nursing program. Currently, the nursing program graduates students one time per year in May; the addition of a spring cohort will yield December graduates, allowing two annual entry points in the program for students and also allowing the Health System to have residency programs twice per year to onboard new graduates choosing to join the Health System after graduation.

"I can't think of a better win-win-win partnership for our community at this particular time," said College of Coastal Georgia president Michelle Johnston. "We are proud to be establishing a model that has the potential of accelerating progress in the near term and for the future with regard to the healthcare workforce."



Sonny Perdue, incoming chancellor of the University System of Georgia, visited the College for the announcement and toured the nursing building.

In a statement released by the health system, Perdue said he's grateful for the leadership of the college and SGHS for setting a standard and a model within the state.

"This partnership is an excellent example of the university system's strategic goals of community impact and economic competitiveness," he said.

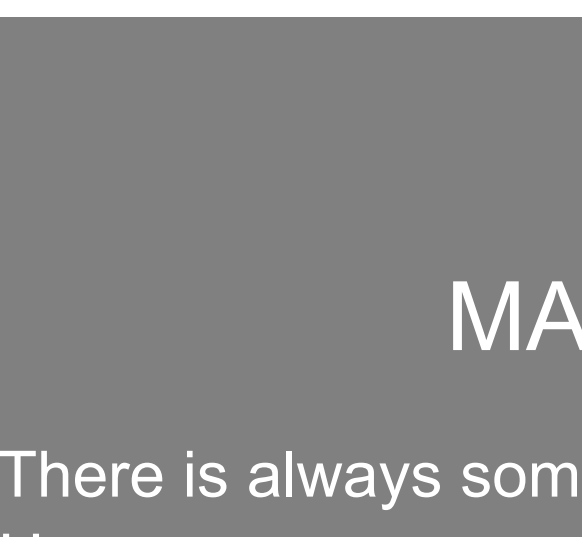
Read more about the partnership [here](#).

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.ccgga.edu/Elevate



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

- Performing Arts Club's Spring Production: Mickey's Melodies with the Mariners: April 2 with showings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Southeast Georgia Conference Center. Celebrate the music and magic of Disney with the Performing Arts Club. Doors open 30 minutes before show time. Event is free of charge and open to the public.
- April 3 performance from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Seaswells Launch Party: April 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the foyer of the Southeast Georgia Conference Center. Come pick up a copy of the magazine and meet the contributors. Dress code: Cocktail Attire.
- M. Tennis vs. St. Thomas University: April 9 @ 1 p.m. at Torrey Tennis Complex
- Softball vs. Reinhardt University: April 20 @ 1 p.m. at Brunswick HS.

Check out the Athletics [calendar](#) for more upcoming sporting events.

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.

