



COLLEGE of
COASTAL
GEORGIA

ALUMNI

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](#).

SUPERHERO ALUMNI

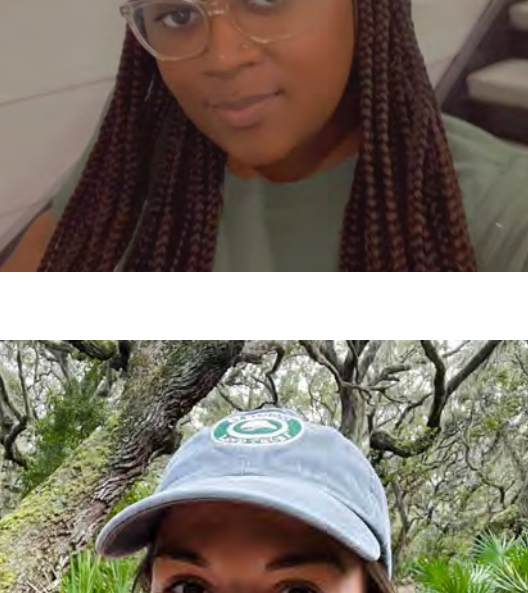
We asked our Superhero Alumni nominees to share a little about themselves and their life after graduating from the College. We had such a great response that we will be highlighting a few at a time in subsequent newsletters. Learn more about our Superhero Alumni below:

ALEXA (WARE) BUNTING '21



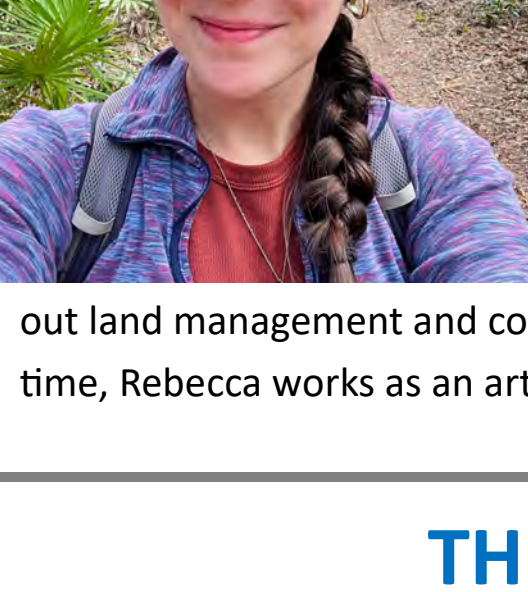
Alexa received her Bachelor's of Arts in Spanish from the College of Coastal Georgia IN 2021. By having Spanish as a second language, it helped her excel quickly in the business industry. While attending the college, her overall career developed, being heavily focused on retail and marketing management. She went on to manage the marketing and retail operations for a jewelry store in North Carolina, where she decided to take the next step to enhance her marketing career. She went back to school and received her Master of Arts in Integrated Marketing Communications from the University of West Alabama. Shortly after, Alexa and her husband moved back to the area and she secured her dream job working as the Outpost Marketing Manager for Black Rifle Coffee Company. As a military spouse, Alexa enjoys promoting a company that supports veterans, first responders and the military community.

NATAYANNA CAMERON '22



Since graduating from Coastal, I have started a career in patient care. I currently work for my city's local hospital and recently just became a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant. I start back school however in August to further my career. I plan on applying to nursing programs during the fall semester and hopefully will be on my next journey in becoming a RN!

REBECCA CUSHING '22



Rebecca graduated in May of 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Coastal Ecology and Environmental Science. After graduating, she started working for the St. Simons Land Trust, a community-based nonprofit whose mission is to preserve and protect land on St. Simons Island. An accredited member of the Land Trust Alliance, SSLT uses land conservation efforts to promote the health of coastal Georgia's ecosystems, protect historically and environmentally significant properties, and provide education and outreach to the public. As Land Steward Technician, Rebecca works to monitor and enhance over 30 properties protected by the SSLT. She works closely with staff members, volunteers, and SSLT partners to coordinate and carry out land management and community outreach, including working with CCGA on service-learning projects. In her free time, Rebecca works as an artist and draws inspiration from the native flora and fauna of coastal Georgia.

THE RYAN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP CREATING A LEGACY OF GIVING

By Tiffany King



Throughout his time on campus, College of Coastal Georgia alumnus Ryan Gallagher '20 found ways to give back to the campus community that has given him so much. This time, he's giving back through the creation of a scholarship—the Ryan Nursing Scholarship—to benefit male nursing students. He never would've made it through college without scholarships, he said, and he wants to help others like him in their journeys to becoming nurses.



The Ryan Nursing Scholarship benefits male nursing students in their senior year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the College. The scholarship will help students who are in need, so they can stay focused on their studies and complete the program. Gallagher fully understands the impact a scholarship can have in a student's life.

"I would not have been able to make it through college if it weren't for the scholarships I received while in school, and the continued support of the entire campus during my journey to become a nurse," he said. "I truly believe in paying it forward when you have a chance, and I've found myself in a position to be able to help others that may be struggling financially like I was."

Instead of waiting well into his career to create a scholarship, Gallagher decided that now was the right time. He currently works in the progressive care unit at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, and volunteers with the Forsyth Community Clinic to provide healthcare to individuals without insurance.

Becoming a Reality

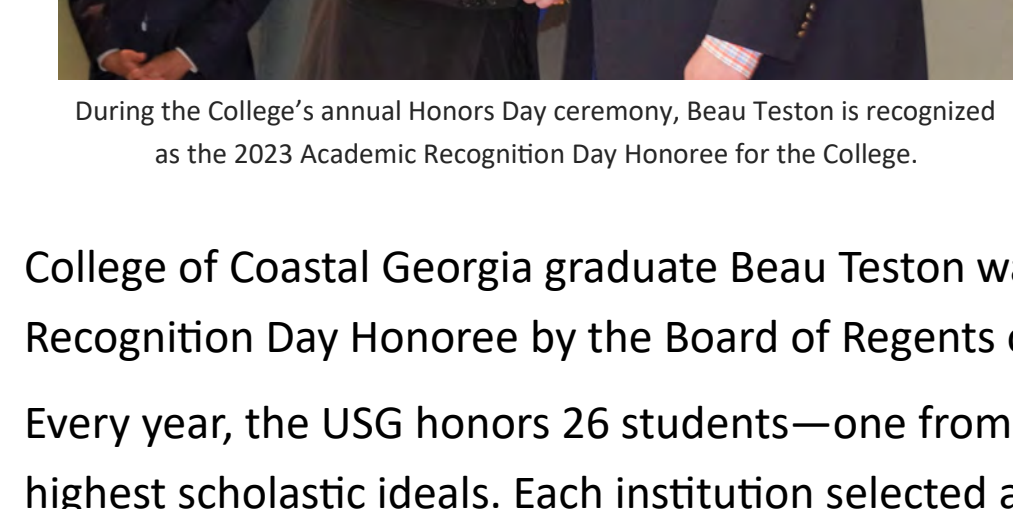
The idea of becoming a nurse never crossed Gallagher's mind at a young age. Raised in Alpharetta, Georgia, his mother was an administrator and his father is an engineer. He decided to pursue nursing after it was brought to his attention as a possible career.

"It started off as a joke one night sitting at a table, as an excuse to wear a comfortable uniform to work every day," he said. "I had an excellent anatomy teacher at my high school that piqued my interests in the subject and challenged my learning, and a combination of curiosity and the promise of comfortable work attire steered me toward nursing."

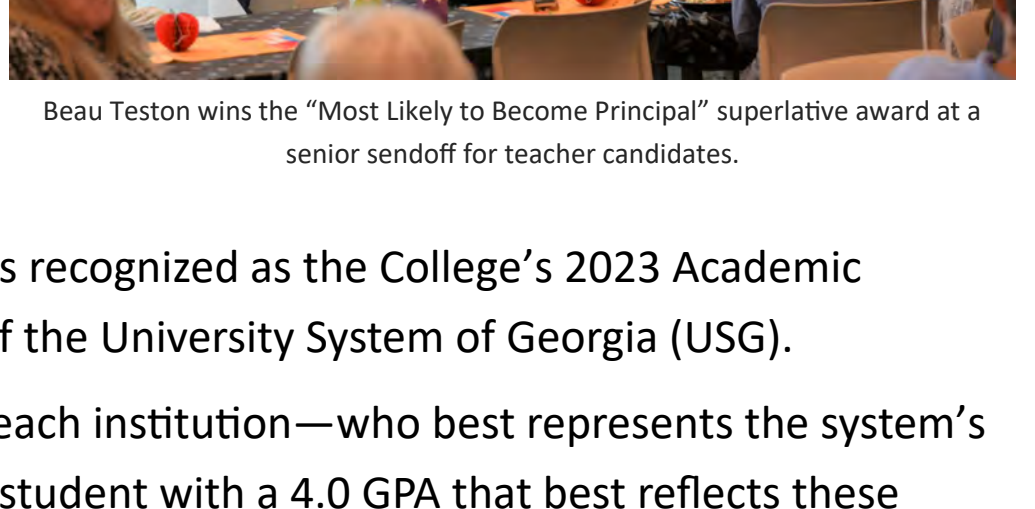
The more he learned about nursing as a rewarding career that fosters a strong work-life balance, the more he wanted to become a part of it. Gallagher came to the College with the hope of not only becoming a nurse, but to discover himself, expand his horizon, and learn more about life.

Read more about Ryan [here](#).

BEAU TESTON '23 RECOGNIZED BY USG FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



During the College's annual Honors Day ceremony, Beau Teston is recognized as the 2023 Academic Recognition Day Honoree for the College.



Beau Teston wins the "Most Likely to Become Principal" superlative award at a senior sendoff for teacher candidates.

College of Coastal Georgia graduate Beau Teston was recognized as the College's 2023 Academic Recognition Day Honoree by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG).

Every year, the USG honors 26 students—one from each institution—who best represents the system's highest scholastic ideals. Each institution selected a student with a 4.0 GPA that best reflects these qualities, and honorees were recognized by the USG in April during a special ceremony in Atlanta. Students were selected because of their outstanding academic achievement and ability to share knowledge in different areas of expertise.

Teston was shocked to learn that he had been selected as the College's representative for Academic Recognition Day. He thought College President Dr. Michelle Johnston had contacted the wrong person.

"When talking to Dr. Johnston, it didn't register with me how important this recognition was—one of the 26 out of the 340,000 plus students in the University System of Georgia receiving this recognition. I'm honored that I was selected for this award," he said.

Dr. Amy Sneed, chair of the Department of Education and Teacher Preparation, shared glowing remarks about Teston in her recommendation for the honor.

"He truly reflects the ideals of our institution in our courses, the school and the Pierce County community," Sneed wrote. "Beau has a big passion for working with children with special needs. He excels at taking initiative, being an engaged learner, and continually seeking out feedback and ways to ensure that his students reach high levels of learning in the classroom. Feedback from his college supervisors and mentor teachers has been outstanding, and he has demonstrated advanced levels of teaching proficiency as an early-career educator in many domains of practice."

Read more about Beau [here](#).

GET A FREE DECAL!

The first 25 Mariner Alumni who email alumni@ccga.edu with their updated contact info and share where they are, will receive a College of Coastal Georgia Alumni decal.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

- Summer Classes Begin: May 31
- Cumberland Island National Seashore 50th Anniversary Speaker Series "The Gullah Language & History": June 17, starting at 10 a.m. at the Camden Center.
- Juneteenth Observance: June 19. Campus Closed.

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.

