



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.



FIRST FRIDAY AT 1407 UNION ST.

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

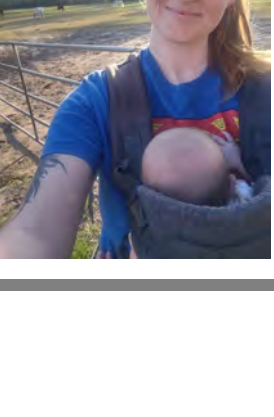


We asked our Superhero Alumni nominees to share a little about themselves and their life after graduating from the College. We had such a great response that we will be highlighting a few at a time in subsequent newsletters. Learn more about our Superhero Alumni below:



BRIANA SPARKS '22

Since leaving Coastal Georgia, I have moved back to Fort Valley, Georgia (my hometown) to take care of my parents. My parents have had medical issues for a long time and have needed my assistance. I have been pursuing several opportunities into veterinary medicine and getting ready to apply into a DVM program. I was also accepted into a Master's program through the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine, studying comparative biomedical sciences. Once I complete the Master's degree, I plan to pursue a Doctorate degree in veterinary medicine, and possibly specializing in emergency medicine.



SAMANTHA RYTI '18

I'm a registered nurse for DaVita Dialysis! I graduated from a leadership class from DaVita in December 2022 to help me in my career and also in my personal life. I've been married for 10 years and just gave birth in January to our third child.



XREIL WINS FIRST PLACE FOR VR GAME

XR Education & Innovation Labs (XREIL) won first place at the Computer Simulation & Gaming Conference for their virtual reality (VR) education-based escape room, *Unlock*. *Unlock* won for the category "Digital Games (VR): Indie Professional." This win has been a great motivator for the team as they continue to develop the game.

XREIL is a cutting-edge development group at the College that creates engaging and immersive educational experiences. *Unlock* has been in progress since last fall, and the competition, hosted by the University of Tulsa, gave XREIL members the motivation they needed to complete a level of the game and share their work with others. That motivation, hard work and teamwork led to a first-place win. For their submission, they created a fully functional game with one level, along with an intro video explaining the concept of the game, clips of the game experience, and credits. The competition was open to creators from various levels of expertise and backgrounds, and had different categories, such as k-12, college level, asset creation, and virtual reality.

The winning team members for the competition included Assistant Vice President for Academic Student Engagement and Professor of Mathematics Dr. German Vargas, Assistant Vice President for Faculty Affairs and Professor of Mathematics Dr. Laura Lynch, Director of Enterprise Services Dr. Diana Leal, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. Michael Butcher, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Student Success Coordinator Dr. Aurora Ramos Nuñez, Coastal Georgia students Joseph Nyamadi, Wes Baird, and alums Jedidiah Lindborg and Austin Benton.

Read more about *Unlock* and the work of XREIL members [here](#).

The first level of *Unlock* can be downloaded to play [here](#).

COASTAL GEORGIA ALUM FEATURED IN LOCAL MAGAZINE



Photos Above: Sam Ghioto came back to campus last spring to get some footage of Homecoming 2022.

Coastal Georgia alum Sam Ghioto '21 has been featured in the July/August edition of Golden Isles Magazine. Sam wrote "Nature Connection" which also features his photos.

Read his article [here](#).

Sam is a freelance writer, documentary filmmaker, and photographer based in Saint Simons Island.

Check out his business, Sam Ghioto Studio at www.samghiotostudio.com.



LAWANNA COLLINS '10 GIVES SUMMER PROGRAM

Coastal Georgia alum Lawanna Collins '10 gave the address at the 2023 Girls of Summer program graduation. Girls of Summer is a part of the College's Minority Outreach Program. The program—and its counterpart Boys of Summer—targets at-risk middle school students for academic and social development.

At the end of the program, the College hosts a special graduation program for the participants who leave ready to tackle the new school year.

In her address, Collins talked about her journey to earn a degree, encouraged the girls to stay focused in academics and that they have what it takes to succeed.

During her time at the College, Collins majored in medical records administration, later known as health informatics. Collins now works at the Southeast Georgia Health System as a program manager.

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ALUMNI T-SHIRT DESIGN FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE CAMPUS BOOKSTORE

VISIT THE BOOKSTORE ON CAMPUS OR BUY ONLINE AT CCGA.BNCCOLLEGE.COM

STORE HOURS: MON—FRI 8 A.M.—3 P.M.



\$24.98

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

- "Elementals" art exhibition: Aug. 8. Associate Professor of Arts Aurora Pope will introduce her artwork in a new exhibition titled, "Elementals," to be displayed at Glynn Visual Arts on St. Simons. The exhibition will run from Aug. 8 to Sept. 8. A reception will be held on Aug. 10, starting around 5:30 p.m.
- First Day of Classes: August 14.
- Labor Day Observance: Sept. 4. Campus Closed.
- Volleyball vs. Alumni Scrimmage: Aug. 5, Brunswick Campus starting at 2 p.m.
- vs. Florida State College at Jacksonville: Aug. 18, Brunswick Campus, starting at 6 p.m.

Check out the College of Coastal Georgia [Calendar](#) for all events.

STAY IN TOUCH

We would love to be in touch with you. Please tell us about yourself and **you've been up to after college. Update your contact information** [here](#).

Questions? Contact alumni@ccga.edu.

