



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.



SUMMER ORIENTATION '23

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. Alumnus Idorico Sebastiao '18 shared with us what life has been like serving in the Peace Corps. Learn more about our Superhero Alumni below:

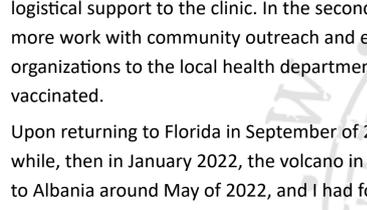


IDORICO SEBASTIAO '18

After graduating from the College of Coastal Georgia in the Spring of 2018, with my bachelor's degree in Biology with a concentration in general biology, I spent two weeks getting my affairs sorted before I went to serve in the Peace Corps. I accepted to serve in the Republic of Moldova as a Health Education volunteer, where I co-taught a mix of health classes and personal development lessons to students in the local middle school.

In March 2020, I was evacuated due to the COVID-19 epidemic, a mere five months from the official completion date of my contract. This was also an inconvenience because I was supposed to start a second contract as an English education volunteer in Tonga, in August, and COVID sort of shut down the world for two years.

While stateside, I earned my Teaching English as a Foreign Language degree, and spent most of the pandemic in Mexico Beach, Florida, counting down the days until I could eventually get back to the field. In the meantime, I was occasionally doing odd jobs, riding my bike, and Netflixing. In the Summer of 2021, Peace Corps partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and volunteers who were evacuated due to the pandemic could serve in a hybrid program.



Jumping at the opportunity, I was working as a member of a mobile team that operated pop-up COVID vaccine clinics all over Maryland for six weeks. I was attached to help provide administrative and logistical support to the clinic. In the second half of my contract, I was moved to Virginia. I was doing more work with community outreach and education, while trying to link various faith-based organizations to the local health department so that those organizations could encourage people to get vaccinated.

Upon returning to Florida in September of 2021, I was working in construction and riding my bike for a while, then in January 2022, the volcano in Tonga erupted delaying my departure date. I was reassigned to Albania around May of 2022, and I had four months to redo my application and ultimately get on the plane.

Nowadays, I'm working as a health education volunteer at a middle school in Albania. Here I'm co-teaching a mix of biology and health education, but I'm also co-teaching English classes for my own personal development. After completing my service in December of 2024, I plan on returning to Florida and starting my master's in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages in 2025 at the University of Central Florida. Being back in Europe feels a bit like déjà vu, but, hey, maybe that's not a bad thing.

Best,
Idorico Sebastiao '18

Check out an article Idorico wrote for Peace Corps Albania [here](#).

Learn more about Peace Corps in Albania [here](#). Also, check out their [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.



FOR THEIR DEAR FRIEND RICHARD

Alums Howard Mann and Rita Omark established the Richard D. Restango Endowed Accounting Scholarship in honor of their lifelong friend, Richard Restango, who passed in June 2022.



When Richard was six years old, his family moved to the Golden Isles of Georgia. Fortunately, when they relocated from New York to Brunswick, Richard met his closest and lifelong friends to this day, Lindy Hulse Aiken, Howard Mann, Ricky Poppell and Joe Salkin.



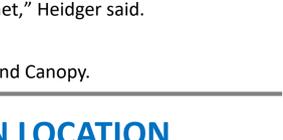
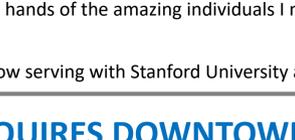
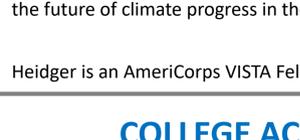
Richard graduated from Glynn Academy High School in Brunswick, where he was a member of the Math Club and International Relations Club, and went on to attend Brunswick Junior College (now the College of Coastal Georgia). He subsequently went to the University of Georgia where he received his B.A. and M.B.A in business.



Howard and Rita visited campus to finalize the scholarship, and were joined by Lindy Aiken and Ricky Poppell, who are also alumni of the College.



LILY HEIDGER '22 ATTENDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE EVENT

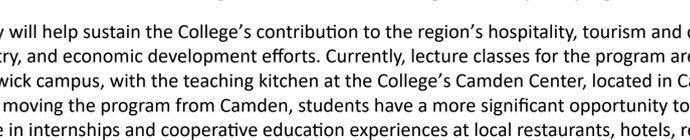


College of Coastal Georgia alumna Lily Heidger '22 was invited by the White House Climate Policy Office to attend the Climate Resilience event at the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center and Preserve in Palo Alto, California, on June 19 to hear President Joe Biden and Gov. Gavin Newsom speak. A few local climate scientists and activists, doing climate work in the Bay Area, were selected to attend. They were given front-row seats and had the privilege of meeting and talking with several staff from the White House Climate Policy Office.

"Overall, I was incredibly honored to attend and left the event feeling empowered and optimistic about the future of climate progress in the hands of the amazing individuals I met," Heidger said.

Heidger is an AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow serving with Stanford University and Canopy.

COLLEGE ACQUIRES DOWNTOWN LOCATION FOR CULINARY PROGRAM



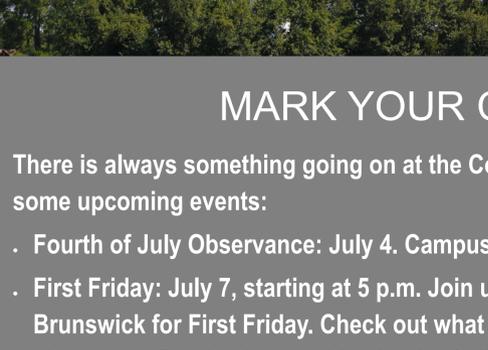
The College of Coastal Georgia Foundation acquired the building at 1407 Union Street, formerly The Village Oven, to be used as a teaching kitchen/lab for the College's culinary arts program.

The facility will help sustain the College's contribution to the region's hospitality, tourism and culinary arts industry, and economic development efforts. Currently, lecture classes for the program are taught at the Brunswick campus, with the teaching kitchen at the College's Camden Center, located in Camden County. In moving the program from Camden, students have a more significant opportunity to participate in internships and cooperative education experiences at local restaurants, hotels, resorts, and other culinary establishments. These practical experiences help students develop industry connections, refine their skills, and gain real-world insights.

College of Coastal Georgia President Dr. Michelle Johnston looks forward to the College having a more prominent presence in Downtown Brunswick.

"The local community has always been a great supporter of the College. We're looking forward to having more opportunities to engage with the community and bring more students to the downtown area," Johnston said. "Although this building will primarily serve as an instructional space, we hope to showcase the work of our culinary students during special occasions and hosted events."

The College is preparing to make necessary improvements and renovations to the building to have the space ready for the upcoming fall semester.



CHECK IT OUT! WE'RE ON THE BRUNSWICK WATER TOWER LOCATED ON PEPPERTREE CROSSING AVENUE, NEAR PUBLIX.

A BIG SHOUT OUT TO CASEY HANAK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT, FOR HER IDEA TO UTILIZE THE WATER TOWER.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

- Fourth of July Observance: July 4. Campus Closed
- First Friday: July 7, starting at 5 p.m. Join us at 1407 Union Street in Downtown Brunswick for First Friday. Check out what will be the new culinary teaching classroom. Food to be provided by the Culinary Arts program.
- Virtual Field Trip: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park: July 12, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn more at: <http://ccga.presence.io/event/virtual-field-trip-hawaii-volcanoes-national-park-2>
- 2023 Summer Volleyball Camps: July 17—19. Visit www.ccca.edu/volleyballcamps for more information and registration.

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.

