2024 Spring Commencement

Saturday, the Fourth of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Four
Jekyll Island Convention Center
Graduation day is one of the very best days at the College of Coastal Georgia. It is the culmination of a great deal of hard work and dedication, and it is my honor to congratulate you on the stage today!

You have brought your own unique experiences, diverse backgrounds, cultures, talents, and interests to the College. Our graduates today represent 17 states, 48 Georgia counties, and 12 countries, bringing wide-reaching and global perspectives to our coastal community. International students like Santiago Speranza from Argentina, who is earning his bachelor’s degree in business, is a scholar-athlete as a member of our men’s tennis team, as well as a successful, published author. Like Santiago, you have taken opportunities to thrive, flourish, and grow, and we believe your College of Coastal Georgia education will serve you well no matter where you go next.

Along with internships, research projects, and clinical rotations, the Class of 2024 has contributed over 6,500 hours to service-learning projects that have impacted organizations, communities, and individuals in our region. Today, the age difference between our most senior graduate and our youngest is 41 years, proving that it is never too late or too early to pursue your dreams. Many of you are the first in your family to attend college, creating a legacy of success for future generations.

No matter where you go, you will always be a Mariner. As you move forward, please keep us updated on your progress, let us know if we can help you in any way, and consider becoming a mentor for students who are following in your footsteps.

From all of us at the College, congratulations! Go Mariners!

Dr. Michelle R. Johnston, President
Sixty-Fourth Commencement of the College of Coastal Georgia
Order of Ceremony

Processional
Dr. Don H. Mathews, Grand Marshal
Professor of Economics

National Anthem
(Please Stand)

Invocation
D. Chloe Johnson, Class of 2024

Welcome
Dr. Michelle R. Johnston
President

Greetings from SGA President
Kayla Markey

Charge to the Class
Karla Hernandez Delgado Oddie, Class of 2024

Presentation of Candidates
School of Nursing & Health Sciences
School of Arts & Sciences
School of Business & Public Management
Dr. Johnny L. Evans, Jr.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees
President Johnston

 Announcement of Graduates
Dr. Michael Butcher
Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Recognition of Alumni Status
Hillary S. Stringfellow
Chair, College of Coastal Georgia Foundation

Closing Remarks and Recessional
The gown, the cap, and the hood, representing the major components of the academic dress, are a ceremonial inheritance from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries where dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility. The academic dress worn by those participating in today’s academic processional symbolizes the level of their academic attainment and the institution they attended.

The gown is usually black, however some universities have authorized colored gowns. The gown for an undergraduate degree has pointed sleeves and is worn closed in front. The gown for the master’s degree is typically black and has longer oblong sleeves, with a large section that hangs below the wrist. The gown for the doctoral degree is distinguished by the loose sleeves with bell-shaped cuffs, three bars of velvet on each sleeve and velvet facing running down the front of the gown.

The most symbolic feature of the academic dress is the hood. The velvet edge of the hood represents the specific degree or discipline with dark blue for Doctorate of Philosophy, light blue for Education, apricot for Nursing, brown for Fine Arts, canary for Library Science, crimson for Communications, drab for Accounting or Business Administration, gold for Science, sage for Health and white for Arts. The satin field and chevrons of the hood represent the colors of the university that granted the degree. Master’s and doctor’s degree holders wear the hood draped over the shoulders and back.

The standard cap, known as the mortarboard, is flat and square with a tassel fastened to the center of the stiff top. Bachelor’s and master’s tassels are black or the color of the gown. Doctor’s tassels are shorter and gold. Once the degree is conferred, the tassel is worn on the left. In recent years, some American universities have adopted soft velvet caps for holders of their doctor’s degrees.

The ceremonial mace, a symbol of presidential authority, is carried at the head of the academic procession by the Grand Marshal, Dr. Don H. Mathews. The College of Coastal Georgia mace is a gift from the Golden Isles community and Dr. Carl Dohn. Dr. Dohn handcrafted the mace out of reclaimed heart pine cut from huge beams collected and donated by the former Sea Island Company Chairman & CEO Bill Jones, III. This same heart pine was used by Dr. Dohn to craft the table used by the ten delegates of the G-8 Summit, held on Sea Island, Georgia in June of 2004. The mace was first used at the inauguration of the former College of Coastal Georgia President, Dr. Valerie A. Hepburn, in 2009.

### LEGEND

| Summa Cum Laude - 3.9 - 4.0 Grade Point Average |
| Magna Cum Laude - 3.70 - 3.89 Grade Point Average |
| Cum Laude - 3.50 to 3.69 Grade Point Average |
| Honors - Associate Degree - 3.75 to 4.0 Grade Point Average |
| *Student Hall of Fame |

### REGALIA LEGEND

Academic Honors - Gold Cord
Athletics - Blue & Silver Cord
Residents Assistant - White Stole
Veterans - Navy Stole
### MORNING CEREMONY GRADUATES

**School of Nursing & Health Sciences**  
*Dr. Lydia A. Watkins,*  
**Southeast Georgia Health System Distinguished Chair and Dean**

#### Bachelor of Science - Nursing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Honors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brendan Robert Bertram</td>
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<td>Rebecca Jo Brown</td>
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<td>Ebonie Collins</td>
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<td>Logan Madisyn Easlic</td>
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<td>Julia Marie Floyd</td>
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<td>Kaitlyn Nicole Hartmann</td>
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<td>Abbie Hayes</td>
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<td>Douglas Drake Hickox</td>
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<td>Olivia Hursey</td>
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<td>Laura Elizabeth Jones</td>
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<td>Kerdisha Verdia Lubin</td>
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<td>Mikaela McAlpine</td>
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<td>Cali Elizabeth Minchin</td>
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<td>Sarah Grace Monroe</td>
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<td>Hannah Jade Moseley</td>
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<td>Alberta Atuobuah Owusu</td>
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<td>Kaisha Fontaye Porter</td>
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<td>Aliethia Grace Pritchard</td>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Fahima Rastagar</td>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Jordan Elizabeth Robbins</td>
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<td>Kami Lynn Saylor</td>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Chaney Ruth Segler</td>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Lani Faith Stradtman</td>
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<td>Valeri Natali Takacs Gamboa</td>
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<td>Valarie Franchantz Walker</td>
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<td>Albert Frederick Weis</td>
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<td>Delaney Reagan Wells</td>
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<td>Madison Emily Wheeler</td>
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<td>Jackson Bryce Whitaker</td>
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<td>Ariana Williams</td>
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<td>Donna Sue Williams</td>
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<td>Abby Weslyn Willis</td>
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#### Bachelor of Science - Health Sciences

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Honors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mavis Armstrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ty’Tiana L. Atkinson</td>
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<td>Briana N. Gadson, Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Skylar Gribben</td>
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<td>Hunter Walton Hansen</td>
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<td>Greyson Alexander May, Summa Cum Laude</td>
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#### Associate of Science - Nursing

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kehinde Adeniyi</td>
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<td>Daijha D’Evelyn Ali-Neely</td>
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<td>Laura Chepchumba Amdany</td>
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<td>Tina Elizabeth Bent</td>
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<td>Sarah Emily Blackston</td>
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<td>LaTonya Brookings</td>
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<td>Sarah Marie Brooks</td>
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<td>Meghan Reneah Brown</td>
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<td>Jessica H. Calcut</td>
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<td>Lauren Elise Caldwell</td>
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<td>Mackenzie Campbell</td>
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<td>Sareka Marie Davis</td>
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<td>Melessa Alexandria Davison</td>
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<td>Ke’Ana Yokka Dixon</td>
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<td>Felisha Famble</td>
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<td>Jaime Frank</td>
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<td>Carla Elizabeth Futch</td>
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<td>Britney Lee Geith</td>
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<td>Kailey Christine Gibson</td>
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<td>Gabriell Kylee Goodman</td>
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<td>Porcia Lynelle Hall</td>
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<td>Katherine Henderson</td>
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<td>Karla Leticia Hernandez Delgado Oddie</td>
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<td>Shakema Hill</td>
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<td>Chelsea Holcomb</td>
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<td>Courtney Hope</td>
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<td>Bryan Kevin Howard</td>
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Grant Kauffman
Savanna Marie Keithley
Joshua Adam Kirkpatrick
Aylin Lopez
Laura Marchello
Ta’Shera A. Marion
Alexia Lauren McGee
Jentrie Janelle Moore
Mollie Elizabeth O’Steen
Syndal Juliette Ponce
Bridget Leann Propst
Morgan Shae Prosser
Satin Ross

Robert H. Rubow
Heather Nicole Savage
Chloe Sherman, Honors
Khyle A. Shervington
Baelee Bell Teague
Breana Ashlee Thomas
Allison Rebekah Thompson
Dana Trinh
Jackie Velazquez
Nautica Watson
Amanda Wiggins
Shameeka Williams-Williams
Brenda Wilson

Jasmine Hoxit
Amanda Elaine Luffman

Madison Leann Rozier
Rebecca Shally
AFTERNOON CEREMONY GRADUATES

School of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Syvillia Averett, Interim Dean

Bachelor of Arts - American Studies
Phoebe Brooke Barrett, Summa Cum Laude
Truman Roberts, Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science - Biological Sciences
Thaila E. Boast
Julia Anne Couey, Magna Cum Laude
Abbay Christina Crossman
Emily Anne Davis, Summa Cum Laude
John David Griffin
Lowry Jack Hicks*, Cum Laude,
Kendall Faith Kurian
Kelsey Leedle
Richard Clyde Livermore
Megan A. Mathis
Elizabeth Megan McGovern

Bachelor of Science - Data Science
Christopher M. Baer, Magna Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science in Education - Early Childhood/Special Education
Emma C. Arbo, Summa Cum Laude
Myra Alysandra Burrows
Shelby Madison Davis
Chloe B. Denney
Alexis Christine Duncan
Braylee Joy Flowers, Cum Laude
Hannah Brooke Foldy
Anna Renne Harris
Anasia Janay Diane Holland
Maria Therese Kollinger, Cum Laude
Abigail Reid Martin, Magna Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science - Environmental Sciences
Lauren Elyse Cooper*, Summa Cum Laude
Harrison Jacob Faulk, Magna Cum Laude
Amy Marie Hearne
Lindsey Gale Lawing, Cum Laude
Christine Elise Lubin
Christian Carlton Pscholka

Bachelor of Science in Education - Early Childhood/Special Education
Summer Madison May, Cum Laude
Jessica Raybon
Daisy Madison Reddish
Molly Hope Rowell, Summa Cum Laude
Rachel Lynn Shaw
Jacqueline D. Stone
Kaitlyn Jenna Stone
Marilyn Kaye Stone
Olivia Rae Terry, Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science - Environmental Sciences
Victoria Savino, Cum Laude
Thomas James Sparks
Sarah Katherine Tarajos, Cum Laude
Felicity Wasylk
Bachelor of Science - Interdisciplinary Studies

James Wesley Baird  Exavier Teric Jackson
Jessica Ann Collins  Lauren M. King, *Summa Cum Laude*
Aaron Matthew Daniels  Ansley Elizabeth Lawton
Martin Davis  Mackenzie Elizabeth Melton
Kathryn Eloise Everett, *Magna Cum Laude*  Michelle Morgan
Rachael Renee Gilardi  Suzy Morgan
Amanda Lynn Gill  Yamil Omar Ortega
Allison Goletski  Alie Elizabeth Payne
Kaytelin Goodbread  James Travis Price
Kristie Elizabeth Haas  Madison Reyes Mabler V. Reika
Tiffany Hastert  Nova MorningStar Smith
Noah L. Haven  Isis Ayanna Sullivan*
Logan Whitley Hildreth, *Summa Cum Laude*  Jada Lashawn Wilkins

Bachelor of Science - Mathematics

Félix Arroyo Viglino, *Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Science - Middle Grades Education

Jerrica W. Barbre  Feona K. Hunnicutt
Jordan Taylor Calhoun  Blayne Andrew Johnson
Julia Carolina Cockfield, *Magna Cum Laude*  Danika Chloe Johnson
Jonathon Aaron Conner, *Summa Cum Laude*  Misty Dawn Ownbey
Annalisa Marie Defore  Layne Taylor Piestrak
Emily Elisabeth Gill, *Cum Laude*  Callie Anna Smith, *Cum Laude*  
Ryan Cody Graham  Carly Anna Smith, *Summa Cum Laude*
Samantha Leigh Hughes  Carly Rose Vanderbunt

Bachelor of Science - Psychology

Krysten M. Hicks  Tawanna Loreen Ketchup
Sierra Machelle Hines  Josie Brianne Lemons
Taylor Faith Hunter, *Magna Cum Laude*  Gabrielle Teresa Mazzuca
Charity Laisha Johnson  Aimee Michelle Yeomans
Bachelor of Business Administration - General Business

Alivia Marie Asip, *Cum Laude*  
Sara Tykira Barnes, *Cum Laude*  
Aymeric Bruno, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Mark Philip Carlson  
Chloe Do Lago, *Cum Laude*  
John Lawrence Fesperman  
Peyton Lee Garris, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Van Eric Grant  
Titus James Guffey, *Cum Laude*  
Jeffery Carson Watson Hall  
Zayne Thomas Hilderbrand  
Jaeden Ryanna Hill  
Jalen Malik Hill  
Taylor Leigh Hodges  
Nikali Jiles  
Conner Louis Johnson, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Lucas Landaluce Lacambra  

Emily Grace Lauric  
Megan Catherine McCormick, *Cum Laude*  
Thacher Jameson Neal, *Cum Laude*  
Taylor Bryce Peacock*, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Marcus James Reynolds, *Cum Laude*  
Joshua Anthony Scott, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Santiago Luis Speranza*, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Brittany Michelle Taylor, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Sarah Thinger  
Abbi Alyse Thomas, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Carrie Mae Turner  
Natalia Willhelm Heguaburu*, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Cecilia Wise

Bachelor of Science - Accounting

Kayla Clark  
Chastity D. Knowles, *Magna Cum Laude*  

Grace Elizabeth Murrow

Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice

Noah Ryan Blocker  
Bryce Broshow, *Cum Laude*  
Jerry Waynette Carter  
Charlotte Irene Cope  
Linda Doah  
Ta-Rhea Melvina Heyward  
John Mikael Meighen  

Madeline Elizabeth Morgan  
Brittany Murphy, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Chaidelle Phillips, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Haley Brianna Sims, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Gaby Paige Smith  
Jarrett Washington  
Aldonia L. Waye

Bachelor of Science - Health Informatics

Davis Ansley Flanders  

Renesha Reynolds

Bachelor of Science - Hospitality & Tourism Management

Ikymaya Blackett, *Cum Laude*  
Arrayla Quanay Brown  
Emily Rose Cavender, *Magna Cum Laude*  
Maggie Carolyn Duke, *Cum Laude*  

Kayla Nicole Markey*  
Katie Joyce Mulrooney, *Magna Cum Laude*  
William Loris Townsend  
Monica Woodard
School of Business & Public Management
(Continued)

Bachelor of Sciences - Public Management
William Mcafee Hamilton*  
Casey Colleen Hanak  
Raegan Howell, Cum Laude

Bachelor of Applied Science - Workforce Management and Leadership
Nicholas Patrick Coccia  
Sarah Frances Harrell  
Kendrian White, Cum Laude  
Victoria Young

School of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Syvillia Averett, Interim Dean

Associate of Arts
Jaliyah Danielle Tootle

Associate of Science
Reagin Elizabeth Hanna  
Kelly Hartley  
Monique Monica Hollinshead  
Olivia Jarrell  
Elyssa Michelle Jordan  
Meagan Neal  
Kylie Paige Phillips  
Violet Poppell  
Justin Michael Reid  
Christopher Sobala
2023-2024 FULL TIME FACULTY

James Atwood, J.D., Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Cynthia J. Atwood, Senior Lecturer of Criminal Justice
Syvillia Averett, Ph.D., Interim Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Data Science, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Tyler E. Bagwell, M.F.A., Professor of Communication
Ashley H. Barnes, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Jennifer Beirdneau, Lecturer and Clinical Coordinator of Radiological Science
Kathleen Bennett, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Teacher Education
James Benton, Ph.D., J.D., Professor of Accounting
Jamie Berrie, Lecturer of Mathematics
Robert R. Bleil, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Arts & Humanities, Professor of English
Carla Bluhm, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
Emily Boyle, Director of Honors Program, Lecturer of English
Robert Brant, Nursing Clinical Coordinator and Lecturer
Christine Brown, D.P.T., Assistant Professor of Health Science and Anatomy & Physiology
Katie Beth Brooks, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English
Drew Cagle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science
James R. Carpenter, Assistant Professor of Biology
Joshua Clark, Senior Lecturer of Biology
Kelly Clark, Biology & Geology Laboratory Instructor
Robert C. Clark, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English
Stacie Conley, Nursing Clinical Lecturer
Stephanie B. Conner, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of English
Richard Lee Cranz, Chef Instructor
Marci R. Culley, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
James Deemy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Science
Wanda DeLeo, Ph.D., Professor of Accounting
Patrice Edwards, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physics & Astronomy
Johnny L. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Olivia Fallis-Merrick, Lecturer of Nursing
Heather Farley, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Business & Public Management, Associate Professor of Public Management
Rene Fisler, Nursing Student Success Counselor and Lecturer
Kyle Fox, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication
Shandy Frey, Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science
Nicole Fullard, Lecturer of Nursing
Julie Fusco, Anatomy & Physiology Lab Instructor
Leon C. Gardner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry
Bill Garlen, Ed.D., Director of Business Innovation & Development
Caroline Geiken, Ed.D., Professor of Practice of Special Education
Mylynda Gill, Librarian and Archivist, Assistant Professor of Library Science
Aurora Pope, M.F.A., Associate Professor of Visual Arts
J. Brian Pope, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
Ashley Prosser, Lecturer of Mathematics
Aurora Ramos Núñez, Ph.D., Student Success Coordinator,
   Associate Professor of Psychology
T. David Reese, Ph.D., Professor of Finance & Economics
Richard Roberson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management,
   Chef Instructor
Traesha Robertson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology
Beverly L. Rowe, Associate Professor of Nursing
Maryanne Sandberg, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Nursing
Roscoe Scarborough, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Social Sciences,
   Associate Professor of Sociology
Natalie Schrey, Ph.D., Physical Sciences Lab Coordinator and Instructor
Ben Seligson, Lecturer of Mathematics
Amy Sneed, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Education & Teacher Preparation,
   Associate Professor of Middle Grades and Secondary Education
Ashleigh Spurlock, Program Director of Radiologic Science, Lecturer of
   Radiologic Science
Nelbert St. Clair, D.Sc., Associate Professor of Cyber Security & Criminal Justice
David Stasek, Ph.D., Professor of Biology
Richard Stephens, Ed.D., Instructor of Workforce Management & Leadership
Kimberly Takagi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Environmental Science & Oceanography
Dantera Tangpisuthipongsa, M.D., Associate Professor of Biology
Lori Tigani, Chemistry Lab Instructor
Melissa Trussell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics
Jason W. Umfress, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
German A. Vargas, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Academic Student Engagement,
   Professor of Mathematics
Tyra Warner, Ph.D., J.D., Chair of the Departments of Hospitality, Tourism & Culinary Arts
   and Criminal Justice & Public Policy, Associate Professor of Hospitality & Tourism
Lydia A. Watkins, D.N.P., Dean of the School of Nursing & Health Sciences,
   Professor of Nursing
Christopher J. Wilhelm, Ph.D., Professor of History
Scott Williamson, Professor of Practice: Marketing & Communication
Aaron Yeager, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Renren Zhao, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics
1964-1966: Inaugural Brunswick Class

The College began operations as “Brunswick College” with an initial class of 269 students, 11 full-time teaching faculty members, and 25 full-time staff. In 1966, 28 students were awarded associate degrees at the College’s first graduation. Over the next four decades, the College offered associate degree programs as well as postsecondary technical and adult programs.

1992: Camden Instruction Began

The Board of Regents authorized an off-site instructional unit to be located in Camden County to serve students in the region. Classes were offered one year later in the former Kingsland Elementary School until the Camden Center site was opened in 2004.

1996: Community College Status

To better reflect the broader mission of serving the educational needs of the surrounding coastal communities, the College was renamed “Coastal Georgia Community College.”

2007: State College Status

*College Degree Access for Coastal Southeast Georgia*, a report to the USG Chancellor, recommended “senior college” status for the College, noting that the campus is in one of the state’s most desirable locations and has one of the largest acreages within the System. The report called for the new “senior college” to offer a wide range of targeted baccalaureate degrees and to become a “destination campus to attract Georgians from other regions.”
The College was renamed “College of Coastal Georgia” and was approved to offer the inaugural set of baccalaureate degrees in business administration, early childhood/special education, middle grades education, and nursing. The master plan for the College shifted to “1) serve significantly increasing numbers of people from its 12-county region, and 2) be a destination College, attracting students from elsewhere in Georgia and, to a lesser extent, from other states and nations.” Over the last decade, the College has implemented a full array of innovative baccalaureate programs and community engagement strategies.

The College began offering student housing, which has grown today to two on-campus student housing complexes as well as off-campus housing.

Today, the College has a spring enrollment of over 2,960 students, employs over 250 full-time faculty and staff, offers 20 baccalaureate degrees as well as associate degrees in core curriculum and three career associate degrees. The College graduates over 600 students each year, with roughly half earning a baccalaureate degree.
ALMA MATER

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
Hear the song we raise to thee;
Fount of wisdom, Seat of knowledge,
We do pledge our loyalty.

Hail to thee, dear Alma Mater
Symbol of the joys of youth;
Lead us on as we grow older,
Help us keep thy ways of truth.

Through the years, dear Coastal Georgia
Memories bonds will hold you near;
For all wisdom and all knowledge,
We lift up our thanks sincere.

Alma Mater, Alma Mater
Coastal Georgia hail to thee;
Alma Mater, Alma Mater
Shine through all eternity