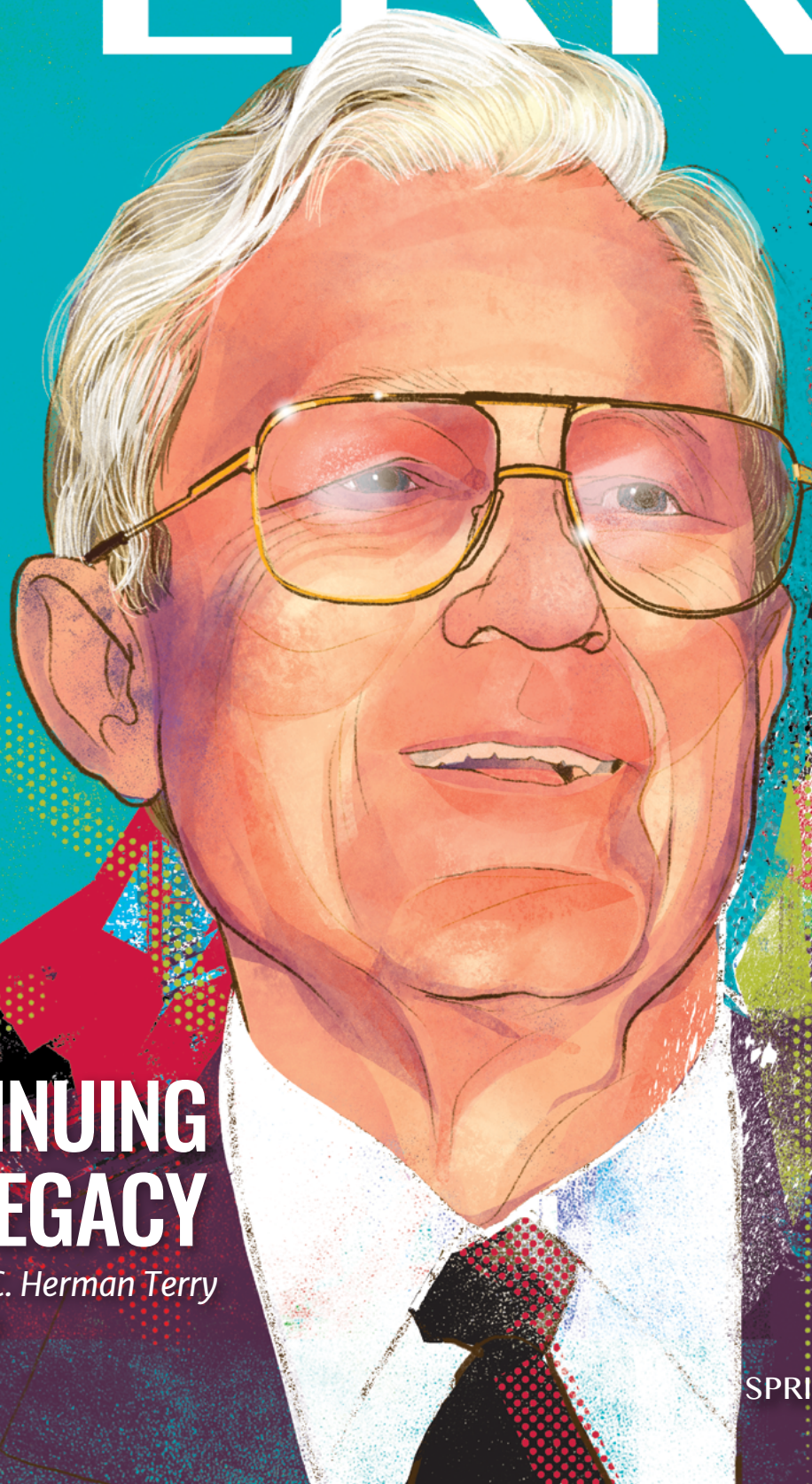


THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA TERRY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

TERRY



CONTINUING THE LEGACY

*Naming the C. Herman Terry
RMI Program*

page 14

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Where will they go thanks to you?

Study away experiences foster cultural understanding and are often life-changing for students, offering impactful learning opportunities with an international focus.

Financial need is the No. 1 barrier to participation in these programs. Nearly one-third of Terry students face financial obstacles preventing them from taking advantage of all the college offers.

Your support allows us to provide study away opportunities to more students as part of our mission to ensure graduates are prepared to excel in a globally connected business world.



To learn more, contact:

Kathy Ortstadt
Senior Director of Development
and Alumni Relations
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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Terry College of Business



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Early May brought two straight days of celebration for more than 2,000 Terry students and their families, as the college hosted its annual **Undergraduate and Graduate Convocation** ceremonies at Stegeman Coliseum.

Dean Benjamin C. Ayers

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Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs Henry J. Munneke

Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence, International and Master's Programs Santanu Chatterjee

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FROM THE DEAN

An exciting new era for RMI

Our Risk Management and Insurance Program has long been a source of pride for the Terry College of Business.

One of the first collegiate RMI programs in the country, it remains the largest by number of graduates. It is consistently ranked at the top nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*, earning the number one overall spot for five years running.

This spring, the program entered an exciting new era. We are thrilled to announce the naming of the C. Herman Terry Risk Management and Insurance Program, made possible thanks to a transformational gift from the Terry Family Foundation of Jacksonville, Florida.

The foundation's generosity ensures the program can remain a flagbearer for teaching and research in the critical area of risk management, as demonstrated by a collaborative effort with Duke University, bringing together researchers and industry leaders to form new strategies addressing natural disaster risk (page 40).

The naming gift further cements the Terry family's incredible legacy at the University of Georgia — a place Herman Terry, our college's beloved namesake, held near and dear, as you will read in this issue's cover story (page 14).

Throughout the decades, the C. Herman Terry RMI Program produced some of the industry's most accomplished and respected leaders. We are proud to honor one of those leaders, Cliff McCurry (page 31), with the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award. Cliff joins two other outstanding Terry graduates, Lisa Laube (page 34) and Morgan Moore (page 37), in receiving this year's awards. These three amazing individuals inspire us with their success in business and dedication to their communities.

Elsewhere in this issue, our alumni continue to thrive and innovate in unexpected places. Terry graduates Alex Hill and Wes Van Dyk partnered with a fellow UGA grad, Selby Hill, to launch Yonder Yoga, a fast-growing chain of yoga studios appealing to current and former athletes (page 24).

Thanks to the support of our alumni and friends, more students can take advantage of experiential learning opportunities, preparing them for careers in the global economy. During Spring Break, students in the Full-Time MBA program traveled to Japan to immerse themselves in the country's business culture and experience the impact of international learning (page 19).

From program rankings to student outcomes to research excellence, there is much to celebrate at the Terry College. As we reach the close of another academic year, let us take a moment to mark our achievements while also looking forward, knowing the best is still to come.

Sincerely,

Benjamin C. Ayers, Dean
Earl Davis Chair in Taxation
busdean@uga.edu



news

Photo by Brian Powers



Keeping in touch |

Young Alumni Summit helps recent grads stay connected

Faculty receive excellence awards

The Terry College presented its annual awards for excellence in teaching, research and service to five faculty members in December.



Erin Towery, the KPMG–Atlanta Partners’ and Employees’ Professor in the J.M. Tull School of Accounting, received the Teaching Excellence Award. Towery has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in accounting and taxation and developed a First–Year Odyssey Seminar that engages students in exploring the U.S. tax system.



Troy Montgomery, a senior lecturer in the Department of Management, received the Instructional Excellence Award. Over the past five years, he has taught nearly 50 courses to over 2,000 students across multiple programs, including undergraduate, Full–Time, Executive and Professional MBA.



John Campbell, the Herbert E. Miller Chair in Financial Accounting and head of the Department of Finance, received the Distinguished Research Award. A leading expert in the area of financial regulation and disclosure in capital markets, his research productivity has ranked near the top of accounting faculty in his field since graduating with his PhD in 2010.



Terence Saldanha, the Becky and Howard Young Distinguished Professor in the Management Information Systems Department, received the Research Excellence Award. His research looks at how investments in information technology can drive innovation and improve business performance.



Elena Karahanna, the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Distinguished Chair of Business Administration in the Management Information Systems Department, received the Faculty Service Award. She has served in important roles at major research conferences, including as program committee co–chair of the premier information systems conference.



L–R: Whit Thoms, Ethan Craig, Alex Womack, Madeline Pierce, Mattie Garrett

Womack named Student of the Year

As a UGA Honors College student studying economics and international business, **Alex Womack** focused on numbers but also his community. His passion for service and academic excellence earned him Terry College of Business 2025 Student of the Year honors.

Womack, from Bogart, spent his college career as an assistant scoutmaster, a peer tutor for the UGA Office For Student Success and Achievement and director for case administration for the University Judiciary. He was president of the Atlas Business Society and Chess Dawgs, a project leader with Terry Student Consulting and a Corsair Society member.

The Terry College Alumni Board recognized four other finalists:

Ethan Craig earned degrees in finance and economics. Craig spent his four years at UGA learning everything he could about the markets, beginning as a freshman in the Magellan Program and Kennedy Society. By his senior year, he was serving as president of Apollo Society and technology, media and telecommunications sector leader for the UGA Student Managed Investment Fund.

Mattie Garrett earned degrees in finance and management information systems and certificates in personal and organizational leadership and entrepreneurship. She was a UGA Foundation Fellow, Presidential Scholar, Leonard Leadership Scholar and Sea Island Scholar. She served as an intern for the Isakson Initiative, director of activities for Zeta Tau Alpha and a member of Women in Finance and the UGA Society of Entrepreneurs.

Madeline Pierce earned degrees in management information systems and international business. She was the senior coordinator for the Terry Women’s Initiative, a Leonard Leadership Scholar, a Presidential Scholar, a member of Women in Technology and a Sea Island Scholar. She also served as director of philanthropy for Alpha Omicron Pi.

Whit Thoms graduated with a finance degree and certificates in personal and organizational leadership and entrepreneurship. He was a Leonard Leadership Scholar, Terry College Ambassador, Real Estate Society member and Student Government Association board member. He was also a winner in the Georgia NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Competition, Terry peer interview coach and member of Terry Student Consulting.



Young Alumni Summit launches

Terry’s inaugural **Young Alumni Summit** took place Jan. 24 in Atlanta. Tailored toward recent graduates, the summit provided attendees with networking opportunities, engaging conversations and exciting ways to stay involved with the Terry College.

With keynote presentations, breakout sessions and a fireside chat with Dean Ben Ayers, the summit featured a day’s worth of valuable discussions designed to help young alumni keep connected and navigate their careers with confidence.

Speakers included Julie Saxon, head of consumer sales at X; Colin Rocker, founder of Career Colin; Hanna Jon Lewis, brand marketing consultant, Minute Maid at The Coca–Cola Company; Brian Nixon, senior vice president, customer leadership with The Coca–Cola Company; and Michael Patrick, director, external research and development at Chick–fil–A.

Terry again tops Bulldog 100

KBH Industrial, a company offering integrated services and acting as the go–to vendor for power projects and outage services in various sectors, placed first in the Bulldog 100 ranking of fastest–growing businesses owned or operated by University of Georgia alumni.

Tarun Ganerwal, who earned his MBA from UGA in 2009, is the president and CEO of the company. He is responsible for business development, profit and loss, strategic planning, and daily leadership and oversight of KBH Industrial, based in Smyrna.

The UGA Alumni Association recognized Ganerwal during the 16th annual Bulldog 100 Celebration on Feb. 20 in the West End Zone of Sanford Stadium. This year, 48 businesses on the Bulldog 100 list included graduates from majors in the Terry College, including three in the top 10.

This marks the ninth consecutive year that a business run by a Terry College alum ranked first in the annual list.



Programs earn top rankings

Terry's Full-Time MBA and part-time Professional MBA programs are ranked among the top 20 public programs nationally in the latest edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools. The full-time program is No. 11 among public business schools and No. 29 overall, marking the eighth straight year *U.S. News* ranked the Georgia MBA in the top 20. The Professional MBA climbed to No. 19 among public business schools and No. 31 overall. Earlier this year, *Financial Times* rated Terry's Full-Time MBA the No. 1 value for the money worldwide and No. 11 among public programs in the U.S. *Fortune* magazine ranked the Professional MBA No. 9 and the Executive MBA No. 6 among public U.S. business schools. More than 95% of Full-Time MBA students were employed within three months of graduation, according to *U.S. News*. It was the highest employment rate reported by any B-school ranked in the top 50. Terry's stellar academic reputation helped the Professional MBA program score among the top 15 public universities in the "peer assessment" segment of the *U.S. News* ranking. In the publication's graduate business specialty rankings, Terry's Real Estate Program ranked sixth among public business schools, and UGA ranked 10th among public universities for business analytics.

Brown receives UGA award



Daniel Brown, senior lecturer in the C. Herman Terry Risk Management and Insurance Program, is the 2025 recipient of UGA's Lee Anne Seawell Faculty Recognition Award. Faculty and staff who receive this honor, given annually by the UGA Career Center, are selected via feedback from the Career Center's annual Career Outcomes Survey. The survey gave members of the Class of 2024 the opportunity to identify a faculty or staff member who had a positive influence on their career development. After spending 15 years in the insurance industry, Brown (BBA '02) transitioned to education. He is known as a career champion for students and consistently goes the extra mile to support them in their career journeys. "I feel lucky to have a job that I love — a 'get to' job. I get to go to work every day, and I want to help students find their own 'get to' job," Brown said. "To do that, I need to connect with students. I share a lot of personal stories in the classroom, both wins and failures, and my hope is that this helps them see me as a person they can relate to." In recent years, Brown has supported the RMI Program in organizing its career fair. The RMI Careers Day brings together over 80 employers and more than 400 students, offering a platform for employers to connect with and interview students seeking internship opportunities and full-time positions.

Sales Dawgs win top prizes

From Lawrence, Kansas, to Cincinnati, Ohio, to Tampa, Florida, **Terry professional sales students** racked up miles this spring traveling and winning at national sales competitions. The semester started with the "toughest test in sales education" — the Selling with the Bulls competition hosted by the University of South Florida. The competition gathered 150 intercollegiate sales students from 31 universities for a 48-hour marathon sales competition. It was the Terry team's first time competing, but it didn't stop them from sweeping many categories. Junior Jackson Meier won the roleplay competition, with seniors Riley McSpadden taking fifth place and Holland Weber in seventh. In addition, students competed to see who made the best impression over email. McSpadden took first place, with Weber in fifth, senior Daniel Oliver in sixth and Meier in seventh. When the team competed to see who could leave the most persuasive voicemail, McSpadden finished third, followed by Meier (fourth) and Oliver (sixth). In March, juniors Sara Mahmud and Rachel Surber competed at the marketing fraternity Pi Sigma Epsilon's sales competition. Mahmud won first place out of 30 in the New York Mets Sports Selling Competition. In April, a team traveled to the University of Kansas for the King's Hawaiian Sales Competition, where each member was a finalist among 72 competitors. Senior Stella Corenthal earned second in speed selling, and junior Juliana Defino received an honorable mention. Junior Zachary Cannon and senior Kyle Allison were speed-selling finalists in the top 16.



Photos by Brian Powers

L-R: Christen Wright, Tiffany Daniels, La'Vonda McLean, Anthony Walker

Inspiring a new generation of leaders

Whether working in corporate accounting or college athletics, the **2025 class of Terry Trailblazers** is committed to supporting tomorrow's business leaders through mentorship, community-building and giving back. "Any chance that I get to come back and speak to students is an honor because there were people who poured into me the way we are being asked to do for you," Tiffany Daniels (BBA '97) told students in February. "The seat you're sitting in now, someone else will be sitting in it in the future. That means you're going to have to sit in these seats up here and pour into them." Daniels, associate commissioner for competition and senior woman administrator for the Southeastern Conference, was joined by La'Vonda McLean (BBA '04), managing director at Marsh, Sysco chief tax officer Anthony Walker (BBA '90, MAcc '92), and Reseda Group vice president of product management Christen Wright (BSFCS '05, MBA '10). Terry annually recognizes trailblazing alumni at the top of their careers who exemplify the call to give back through mentoring younger colleagues, college students and grade school students in their communities. This year's Trailblazers emphasized the importance of staying flexible and looking for growth opportunities. For McLean and Wright, that meant making career pivots. For Walker, it meant moving his family to China so he could serve as vice president for taxes in Asia for Walmart. "I'm from a little small town about two and a half hours south of here, with about 15,000 people," Walker said. "I would be the last person you would ever expect to take a two-year assignment in the middle of China. But at the end of the day, it was an amazing opportunity." "The relationships and education you nurture while you're at Terry," he added, "will help open a world of opportunities. You have to be able to take advantage of them when they present themselves."



In memoriam

This winter, we lost three key figures who contributed to the Terry College's remarkable growth in recent years and helped the university maintain a high level of academic excellence.

Sanford H. Orkin, former president of Orkin Pest Control and a decades-long supporter of the University of Georgia and the Terry College of Business, passed away March 4 at age 93.

A trustee of the UGA Foundation and UGA Real Estate Foundation, Orkin's name adorns a building with that of his late wife, Barbara, in the Business Learning Community. Sanford and Barbara Orkin Hall — located at the corner of Baxter and Hull streets — is a vibrant part of the Terry College and a well-deserved tribute to the impact that the Orkins have had on the college and the university.

In addition to their generous support of the Terry College, the Orkins funded scholarships for students with financial need and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar position in the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases. They also supported UGA's School of Law, Mary Frances Early College of Education, College of Public Health, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Athletic Association and the Georgia Museum of Art. The museum honors their philanthropy and devotion to the arts with the Sanford and Barbara Orkin Gallery.

In 2015, the Barbara and Sanford H. Orkin Family Foundation endowed a \$1 million scholarship fund providing support for academically talented students from low-income families.

John F. McMullan, former CEO of Camden Real Estate and one of the most dedicated supporters of UGA and the Terry College, passed away Jan. 8 at age 88.

An emeritus trustee of the UGA Foundation and previous recipient of the Terry Distinguished Alumni Award, McMullan and his wife, Marilyn, made the university the primary beneficiary of their philanthropy for the past five decades.

Over the years, the couple established a number of scholarships, including a study abroad scholarship, the McMullan Academic Support Fund, the Mr. and Mrs. John F. McMullan Football Scholarship and the McMullan Family Women's Tennis Scholarship. In 2015 the McMullan family received the UGA Family of the Year Award for their many contributions to the university's missions of teaching, research and service.

McMullan graduated from UGA in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and received his MBA two years later. The Terry College Dean's Suite in Correll Hall bears the McMullan family name.

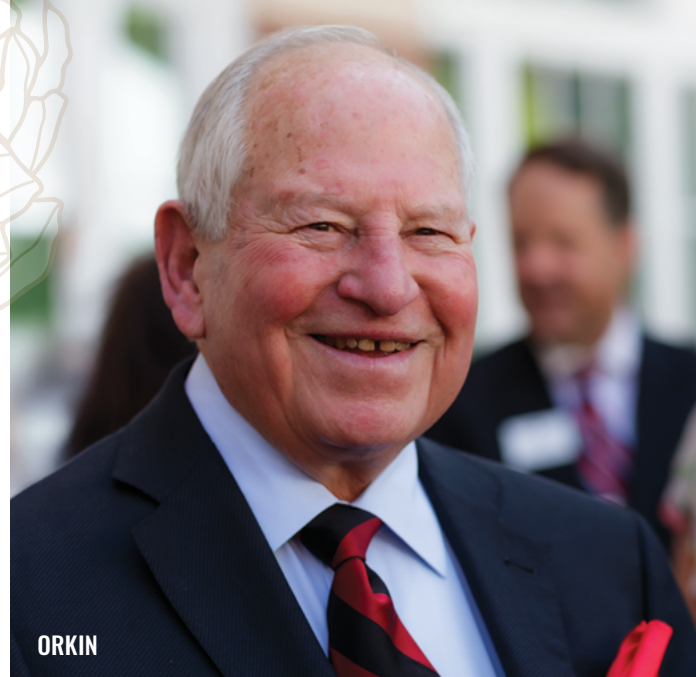
Robert (Bob) Pinckney, director of the UGA Entrepreneurship Program, passed away Feb. 20 at age 66.

In 2015, Pinckney was invited to teach a one-semester class at UGA in the emerging academic field of entrepreneurship. The class proved the power of "practicing entrepreneurs growing promising entrepreneurs," and within months UGA established a university-wide certificate program housed within the Terry College but open to all students, with Pinckney named director.

Under his leadership, the program fostered an ecosystem of innovation and established two national pitch competitions. Pinckney raised the program's profile, built an angel investment network and grew enrollment significantly. Today, the UGA Entrepreneurship Program has one of the highest enrollments of any program on campus and includes students from every college at the university.

Pinckney's fascination with how businesses work began at age 12 during a 4-H field trip to a telecommunications facility. He was captivated by the inner workings of the industry. At 16, he built a laser from scratch for a state-winning 4-H electronics project.

He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1982 and then attended Harvard Business School, graduating with an MBA in 1986. He gained valuable experience with Southern Bell and the John Portman Companies before embarking on a career as a serial entrepreneur. ■



ORKIN



McMULLAN



PINCKNEY

profiles

Tokyo Story

Page 19

Full-Time MBA students spend Spring Break in Japan



Photo by Brian Powers

A PREMIUM NAME

With the C. Herman Terry Risk Management and Insurance Program, a family legacy continues to grow

By Gabe Vodicka (ABJ '08)

The insurance business looked a little different when Herman Terry graduated from the University of Georgia in 1939.

The Great Depression did a number on the industry, with premiums shrinking and companies shuttering as demand flatlined in the wake of the financial collapse.

By the early '40s, there were signs of life. The car was on the rise. Employer-sponsored health coverage was becoming commonplace. Perhaps ironically, the Social Security Act sparked innovation and competition among private insurers, as they raced to create new products to supplement the government-backed system.

Eighty-five years later, insurance and risk management is one of the world's most robust industries, with thousands of firms doing business in the trillions of dollars each year.

"Insurance encourages us to do risky things," says Jim Carson, the Daniel P. Amos Distinguished Professor of Insurance and director of UGA's newly minted C. Herman Terry Risk Management and Insurance Program. "The whole purpose of the risk management industry is to serve society so it can take risks to make life better for more people."

The Terry RMI naming — the result of a gift from the Terry Family Foundation creating a \$15 million endowment to benefit the program — represents an important step forward for a program long viewed as a leader in its field.

The son of a South Georgia pharmacist, Herman Terry rose from humble beginnings to become a nationally recognized insurance executive.



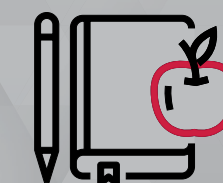
"The whole purpose of the risk management industry is to **serve society** so it can take risks to make life better for more people."

"The Terry endowment gives us the ability to make major new strides in our mission to educate outstanding risk managers and insurance professionals who will become leaders in their organizations and in their communities, which is what Herman Terry stood for and exemplified as a graduate of the University of Georgia," said Terry College Dean Ben Ayers.

You might say Herman Terry happened into a career in insurance. By all accounts, he was a natural, staying ahead of the market and carving out a highly successful career in a rapidly expanding industry.

With that success, he created a legacy that continues well into the 21st century.

RMI AT A GLANCE



#1
overall U.S.
program
U.S. News & World Report



\$15 MILLION
Terry Family
Foundation
endowment



5,000+
alumni



60 YEARS
of RMI
excellence



“The Terrys were incredibly thoughtful philanthropists who invested wisely in community.”

Herman and Mary Virginia Terry became well known in their Jacksonville, Florida, community and across the Southeast for giving generously with their time and money.

A Foundation's foundation

Herman demonstrated a strong work ethic from a young age, working the soda fountain in his father's South Georgia pharmacy as a teenager. Graduating from Quitman High School, he enrolled at UGA, where he entered the School of Commerce and fell in love with the historic campus.

While working for Commercial Investment Trust of Thomasville after graduation, he fell in love with a young woman, too: Mary Virginia, a former high school classmate. The two married in 1941 and settled in what would become their permanent home of Jacksonville, Florida.

“My uncle was a leader in the Jacksonville community,” says Betsy Cox (JD '80), the daughter of Herman's sister, Betty, and president of the Terry Family Foundation. “Not only was he a well-respected business leader who served on various corporate and civic boards, including chairing the Jacksonville Port Authority for eight years, he also devoted a significant amount of time to improving the lives of others and served on a number of nonprofit boards.”

In his 30s, Herman joined financial company Atlantic Discount, overseeing its Dependable Insurance subsidiary,

among other concerns. When an impending merger forced Atlantic to sell off its insurance businesses, Herman, sensing the growth potential, took out a large personal loan and purchased Dependable outright.

The gamble paid off. As president and chairman of the multifaceted Dependable Insurance Group, he gained a reputation as a canny executive, earning national recognition for inventive offerings including a plan protecting banks held liable under a seismic 1976 FTC ruling.

“We didn't know what the effect of the law would be,” Herman told the Fort Myers *News-Press* in 1977, “so we wrote a conservative policy that would protect the bank under certain conditions.”

The plan proved popular, and the insurance business boomed. The company grew... and grew... and grew. In 1983, Herman sold the Dependable Group, by that point a publicly traded entity with multiple subsidiaries.

Rather than retire, he and Mary Virginia set their sights on giving back, actively participating on several boards and giving generously with their time and money. In the following decades, the Terrys became well known for supporting higher education, the arts, health care and children's causes, among other philanthropic priorities.



“The Terry name is seen in a lot of places,” says Cox. “Herman gave more than money; he was somebody that brought other people to the table. He used his influence to further causes that were important to him.”

One of the couple's main beneficiaries was the university Herman credited for his successful career. The C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry College of Business was established in 1991. After Herman died in 1998, Mary Virginia remained a stalwart supporter until her passing in 2022.

Their name now lives on thanks to the Terry Family Foundation, which was the principal recipient of the Terrys' estate and continues to support the causes Herman and Mary Virginia most valued.

“The Terrys were incredibly thoughtful philanthropists who invested wisely in community,” says Kathleen Shaw, the foundation's executive vice president. “Our goal is to honor their legacy so we can ensure future generations have a great foundation to build on.”

A pioneering program

Founded in 1965 by professor E.J. Leverett, UGA's Risk Management and Insurance Program was one of the first such programs in the United States. It quickly grew and remains the largest RMI program in the country, graduating around 300 students each year.

It's also widely considered the cream of the crop. For the past five years, Terry's RMI program has been ranked number one in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

“The industry has told us, ‘We will hire every graduate that you produce,’” says Carson (PhD '93), who was named head of Terry's Department of Insurance, Legal Studies and Real Estate in 2023, succeeding Rob Hoyt, who led the department for more than 20 years.

By all measures, those graduates went on to shape the corporate world. Over the years, the program produced

insurance icons such as Aflac CEO Dan Amos (BBA '73), and leaders in finance, technology, health care and many other industries.

“I think about the alumni that have come out of the program,” says Carson. “Well over 5,000 people going back 60 years. ... Our students are (making an impact) very quickly, helping firms manage risk right out of college.”

The program's focus is making sure students understand the fundamental role risk plays in business — and that it's not just about insurance.

“We try to broaden their perspective,” Carson says. “While insurance might be a key component, it's not necessarily the first thing we try to put into place ... the goal is to manage risk in such a way that the need for insurance actually decreases.”

For large companies, risk managers influence nearly every major decision, including policy changes, product launches, and mergers and acquisitions.

They are particularly needed for pressing issues such as the increased rate and intensity of natural disasters, such as floods and wildfires. To meet this need, last year UGA partnered with Duke University to launch the Center for Innovation in Risk Analysis for Climate Adaptation and Decision-Making, or CIRCAD.

Co-directed by Terry RMI associate professor Marc Ragin, the collaborative center plans to bring together academic researchers and industry leaders “to help adapt to this changing risk landscape, build resilience, protect individuals and communities and address the financial challenges that accompany disasters,” says Ragin (BBA '05).

“CIRCAD's corporate membership model ensures its projects are relevant to key industries, research outputs can be immediately applied, and research development moves at the speed necessary to address the dynamic nature of risk from natural disasters.”



“Our students are making an impact very quickly, helping firms manage risk right out of college.”

CARSON



A bright future

One afternoon in late April, representatives from the Terry Family Foundation gathered in the Business Learning Community with a large crowd of university leaders, faculty, staff, alumni and students to celebrate the naming of the C. Herman Terry RMI Program.

“With this endowment, the C. Herman Terry Risk Management and Insurance Program is poised to move from the top-ranked program in the country to one of the best in the world,” UGA President Jere Morehead said at the ceremony. “Thanks to the Terry Foundation’s support, the RMI program will build on its track record of excellence, expanding its offerings as the largest undergraduate program of its kind, increasing resources for faculty pursuing important research, and providing even more experiential learning opportunities to students.”

Many of those students were in attendance, including third-year RMI major Hannah Higbea, who shared several examples of how the program’s faculty and alumni network played outside roles in enhancing her college education thus far, helping to facilitate study abroad experiences and valuable industry connections.

“The legacy of the RMI program is built on a foundation of generosity, mentorship and excellence, and I am very proud to be part of it,” she said.

The rest of Higbea’s story, like Herman Terry in 1939, has yet to be written. But for her and her classmates, thanks to a foundation laid in 1965 and reinforced by a generous gift 60 years later, the sky’s the limit.

It begs a question: What would young Herman, fresh out of school, make of all this — a lengthy and fruitful career, a lasting philanthropic legacy, an ever-deepening impact on his beloved alma mater?

“He would be highly honored,” says niece Cox. “He attributed a lot of his success to his education at the University of Georgia. I think he would be incredibly proud of this investment, knowing what it’s going to do for so many people.

“It’s helping students, it’s helping faculty, it’s helping advance the college and the university. All of those things were really important to him and are now being continued by our foundation.” ■

Members of the Terry family, representatives from the Terry Family Foundation, faculty, staff and students gathered this spring to celebrate the program naming.



PROFILES: AROUND THE WORLD



NEW HORIZONS

Full-Time MBA students spend Spring Break in Japan

Photos by Brian Powers

Spring Break looks a little different for every Terry student.

Some hit the beach. Many head to their hometowns for a little rest and relaxation. A few stick around to soak up the sudden quiet that settles over the Classic City.

For a select group of Full-Time MBA students, this year’s break was one they’ll never forget.

Traveling halfway around the world for the program’s International Residency in Japan, the group spent a week immersed in the country’s corporate culture, giving final presentations to Japanese companies they partnered with this semester to address business challenges, gaining valuable insight into cross-cultural communication and client engagement.

As with all study away experiences, the learning didn’t end there. The students saw the country’s sights, from the slopes of Mount Fuji to the alleyways of Tokyo. They explored its rich traditions, gaining a deeper understanding of how mindfulness and connection are central to life and business in Japan. And they forged relationships that will last well into their lives and careers.

A memorable Spring Break, indeed.



“This trip really showed me that **I can bring value to a team internationally**, that insights I have could be useful for someone across the world.”
-Fataba Gailor (BS '22, MBA '26)

“I would always encourage somebody to **step outside your comfort zone** because that’s where you’re going to experience something new and learn about yourself.”
-Jameson Glenn (MBA '26)





L-R: Wes Van Dyk, Selby Hill, Alex Hill

Yoga with a *twist*

Yonder Yoga reimagines traditional practices for the 21st century

By Charles McNair

To some, it's a stretch.

Who could imagine Georgia as the epicenter of a fast-growing yoga enterprise? The state is hustle and bustle, team sports (especially one where humans violently collide on a gridiron), The Masters.

But yoga? That's a peaceful, ancient practice from faraway India, a suite of mental and physical practices that meld mind and body in harmony.

Georgia is home, sweet home. Yoga is *om*, sweet *om*.

Three UGA alumni, two of them Terry grads, are reimagining — and reinventing — yogism. Yonder Yoga, their 2019 startup, has grown from one studio to seven locations in metro Atlanta, Athens and Charlotte. The company ranked 18th on the 2024 Bulldog 100. In 2025, it stands at No. 34.

Yonder's three founders were elite athletes in college. Selby Hill (ABJ '14) captained and rode with UGA's 2013-2014 national championship equestrian team. Her husband, Alex Hill (BBA '10), captained Georgia's men's tennis squad. Wes Van Dyk (BBA '12) walked on and earned a scholarship as a running back for the Bulldogs from 2008-2011.

Their collective mindset — three former athletes leaning into a business venture — has tapped a hidden energy everywhere a new Yonder Yoga studio is launched.

"You'd be surprised about Georgia being a hotbed for yoga," says Selby. "When most people think of yoga, they imagine Bali, eastern music, meditation. We market Yonder Yoga as a place to move, to flex, to get stronger than you've ever been.

"We advertise our sessions as workouts, and we also emphasize the impact yoga has on mental health. This combination changes a lot of opinions about the possibilities of yoga."

An ill wind blows good

Hurricanes shouldn't have silver linings. But Hurricane Irma, when it socked Georgia in 2017, spun off a shining opportunity.

During the storm, Selby, Alex and Wes found themselves in a house without power for three days. By candlelight, they brainstormed business ideas.

"We put our heads together," Selby says. "Wes had experience as an entrepreneur. Alex had his business background. And I had a teaching background and years of yoga. We separately couldn't have done it, but together the three of us found the motivation to start Yonder Yoga."

Wes channeled an inner entrepreneur he discovered at the Terry College.

"I took a lot of business classes, and I found myself in upper-level business courses even as an undergrad," he says. "I leaned heavily toward classes that focused on entrepreneurship."

Wes and his sister entered a business case competition, creating a database to organize sorority and fraternity registrations online. They won, and Wes launched and transformed the business case into an actual business while still an undergrad.

"Yoga gave me exactly the solace I needed in a trying time."

After graduating with a management degree, Wes sold and successfully exited the company, then looked around for the next green mountain to climb.

Along came Alex, who had gone into commercial real estate investments after earning a finance degree. He became the

first investor in Wes's Surterra Wellness, a medical cannabis company. They expanded across the Southeast, growing to a \$2 billion valuation by the time Wes exited Surterra in 2018.

Growing a cannabis business to billions in value in just five years invited tense regulatory and political moments. When Selby invited Wes to a yoga studio to ease the stress, he reluctantly agreed.

"The first time she brought me into a yoga class," Wes laughs, "I told her I was never going to come back.

The second time I went, I told her I was never going to stop.

"Yoga gave me exactly the solace I needed in a trying time. And it was the happiest my body had felt since I was playing sports in college."

The X Factor

Yonder Yoga's pleasant, welcoming studios, often specialized for hot-yoga aficionados, offer relief from stress and care for the spirit. Similarly in the yoga tradition, they bring together a caring community of kindred spirits.

But, uniquely, Yonder Yoga offers something else. An X Factor.

Athletes like Wes, Alex, Selby and millions of others eventually pass a point where they can compete at their peak. It leaves an emptiness. While their bodies might not be able to attain past levels of physical performance, their minds still live in the arena, craving competition.

"There's no league for 35-year-old contact football," Wes says flatly. "But in yoga, you still have a way to push your body and mind farther. It's a crazy luxury after losing the thrill of competition. And it's daily ... and you can do it for the rest of your life."

Yoga surprised Alex too.

"The first time I tried a heated yoga class, I thought I was going to die," he remembers. "I seriously considered leaving halfway through. But how I felt afterwards made it more than worth it. I was rejuvenated. I was ready to tackle whatever came next."

Selby agrees that yoga might be the ultimate competition: a body in constant contest with the person he or she was yesterday — or years ago.

"Yoga is beautifully frustrating," she says. "There's no mastering it. Every day, you strive to learn and perfect it. Every day, you get better but fall short. It absolutely appeals to a person with a competitive nature."



Photo by Richard Hamm

“

Terry gave me a great foundation for success: financial skills, an incredible network of people and a diverse education.”

The Terry twist

Alex Hill is quick to credit Terry for his professional chops.

“Terry,” he says, “gave me a great foundation for success: financial skills, an incredible network of people and a diverse education. Now that I wear many hats in a startup, I appreciate the business classes that I use every day. Whether real estate transactions or yoga studios, I have a skill set to build and value cash flow streams, which informs everything we do.”

Membership is a big part of Yonder Yoga’s revenue, supplemented by earnings from private off-site corporate and group private sessions. Yonder also offers label apparel, global retreats and a training program where teachers learn Yonder style and service. More than three of every four company instructors are graduates of the Yonder Yoga School.

For Wes, B-school lessons from Mark “Dill” Driscoll, in 2009 named Terry’s first Entrepreneur-in-Residence, still help shape strategic decision-making as Yonder Yoga looks to the future.

Alex and Selby agree.

“We have been really intentional about our growth and have thus far done everything organically and with internal capital,” Alex says. “We’re trying to prove the concept and scalability on our own, while also really learning what works and doesn’t work. It’s been nice to be able to control that process without outside pressure.”

Will that change?

“I would say, looking forward,” Alex says, “that we will need to explore different strategies to grow more exponentially. That could look many ways, but in some form it likely involves introducing outside capital partners to benefit from our learned knowledge and bring Yonder to more communities.”

Adult daycare

A Yonder Yoga studio looks like the community around it. There’s a lovely cross-section of humankind — old and young, all races, colors and lifestyles.

Ashish Malik, a project manager at SAP, has been one of Yonder’s most faithful friends, attending 1,100-plus studio sessions.

“Selby and the Yonder Yoga team have created a great culture at the studio,” Ashish says. “I joke with her that it is my adult daycare. I travel a lot for work, and when I go to other cities I never quite find a studio that encompasses all that Yonder provides.”

Ashish and many other men prefer Yonder studios to more traditional ones. That’s by design.

“We like to market ourselves to athletes,” says Selby. “Because of our background, we’re well positioned for that market, where there’s growing demand. There’s not a good business supply side focused on what athletes need ... especially men.”

To her point, NFL players occasionally drop by for private lessons. They stretch, strike poses — and discover that their bodies are not as flexible as they thought. Yoga helps with alignment, hip placement and other priorities for athletic success.

Yonder Yoga understands it is disrupting the traditional mindset of what yoga can accomplish.

“Most places, yoga is perceived as simply stretching and meditating,” Selby points out. “We are actively working to change that narrative and assumption. Our practice stays true to the fundamentals of yoga and mindfulness, but it incorporates a lot of movement and fun music, creating an effective workout.”

“There’s a big fitness scene in Atlanta, so appealing to that desire for a workout gets people in the door. Then they stay for the mental and emotional benefits.”



Photo by Richard Hamm



A unique brand

Selby and Alex ran into each other by accident during her freshman year at UGA. Their parents tried matchmaking them the previous year, hoping Alex could convince Selby to attend UGA, but the university senior and high school senior didn’t end up connecting.

Once they did, feelings deepened. They married in June 2019 on Herty Field — with Wes as their officiant.

Selby went from riding horses at UGA to a desk job in Atlanta. She wanted to stay healthy and fit. She also wanted a community around her.

“Yoga checked all the boxes for me,” she says. “I really got into it, especially after trying some of the boutique workout places that just left me feeling depleted, missing meaning. I preferred what I found in yoga, all the different workouts, levels and teams.”

Selby switched from PR to high school education, where she taught English. The combination of yoga and classroom instruction set her up perfectly to launch Yonder Yoga.

The founders worked with a branding professional to select the Yonder Yoga name.

“We wanted something that wasn’t your girly yoga studio brand,” Selby says, “and we wanted something that captured the essence of what makes the yoga practice so special: that the journey never ends.”

“Yonder means ‘a place you can see but haven’t yet reached.’ That’s the idea that keeps people coming back for classes. They are chasing new potential that they didn’t even know was in their reach before.”

“It’s a great metaphor for our lives on or off the mats,” she adds. “The growth and progress never end, and as long as you keep chasing it, you will live a fulfilling life.” ■

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community

Photo by Olivia Bowdoin



Fueling the future |

Celebrating excellence and supporting students at the Gala



Party with a *purpose*

Gather several hundred people in any given room, and there's bound to at least be an uptick in energy. When those people are all alumni and close friends of the Terry College of Business, it's all but guaranteed to be a Dawg-gone good time.

The college hosted its annual **Alumni Awards and Gala** on Saturday, April 26 at the InterContinental

Buckhead Atlanta, honoring Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Cliff McCurry (BBA '71) and Lisa Laube (BBA '85) and Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient C. Morgan Moore (BBA '13) and celebrating the Terry community's collective impact.

The evening brimmed with excitement, including a combined silent and live auction (complete with a Hairy Dawg cameo), with proceeds supporting

Photos by Brian Powers and Olivia Bowdoin

scholarships and student programs. In total, more than \$672,000 was raised through corporate sponsorships, benefiting the Terry Excellence Fund and supporting the college's mission of excellence in business education.

The party didn't end there. Following the auction and awards banquet, guests grooved the night away, fueled by the high-octane vibes of the Atlanta Party Band. ■



Photo by Richard Hamm

Cliff McCurry (BBA '71) built a legendary career by creating meaningful connections

By Ed Morales

The first time anyone has a conversation with Cliff McCurry, the last thing he wants to talk about is risk management and insurance.

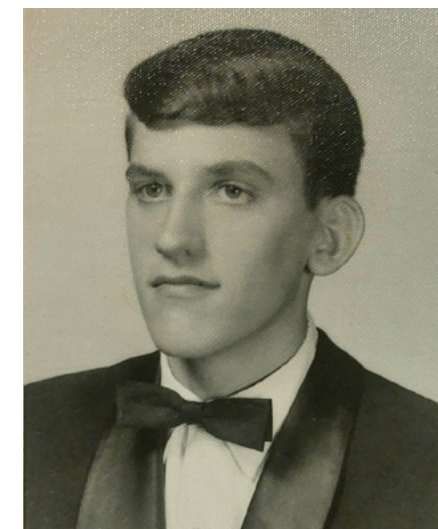
That seems unusual, considering McCurry has devoted most of his life to the profession. At 14, he was a mailroom delivery boy at Mercer Insurance in Savannah, went on to study insurance at the University of Georgia and became an agent, partner, director, vice-chairman, president and chairman during six decades as a professional broker.

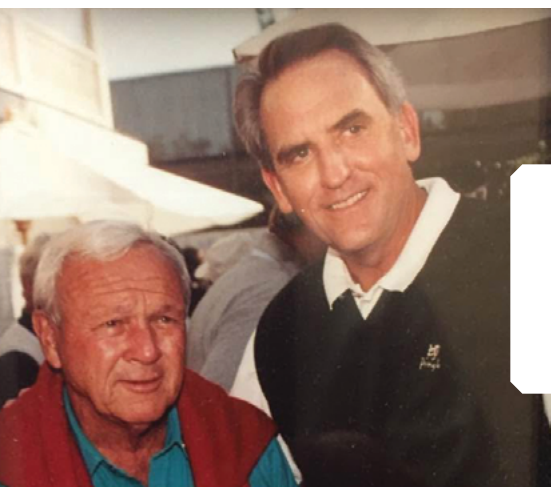
There probably isn't anything he doesn't know about the business. But one thing he's learned for sure is it's not about risk management or insurance. It's

about people. And Cliff McCurry will tell you this: You can't talk insurance with someone until you know who you're talking to.

"Empathy is the most important characteristic to be successful in this business — you got to care about people before you even begin to do business," he says. "You have to get to know them personally, know their major concerns ... I'm proud we have clients that were my clients 30 to 40 years ago, and they're still clients today."

Ryan Sewell can confirm. He was awarded a CPCU Scholarship while a risk management and insurance student at the Terry College and McCurry, seeing promise in the fellow Savannahian who, like himself, was raised in a blue-collar family, took Sewell under his tutelage.





Once he graduated, Sewell met McCurry for lunch meetings at Johnny Harris Restaurant on Savannah's Victory Drive, where the discussions rarely ventured toward business.

"We'd sit there for two hours, and he would talk to me — he asked about family, my mom and kids and spouse — he truly wanted to get to know you," Sewell (BBA '05) says. "What are you dealing with? Where do you find yourself hitting a brick wall? When have you been most discouraged?" He would compile that information, and without even thinking about it, unload this prophetic information back on you that changed your mindset and direction."

"We're in the protection business and relationship business."

Sewell is now McCurry's boss at Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, one of the largest privately held risk management and insurance agencies in the U.S. Per company rules, McCurry "retired" as a partner 11 years ago but continues to work in an advisory role, an accord that benefits both parties. For McCurry, it allows him to mentor young minds in a business he esteems; for Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, it keeps one of Savannah's most trusted brokers on its roster.

"There are so many driving forces behind his success in the insurance industry, and one key factor is his exceptional relationship-building skills," says Cindy Robinett (BBA '89), a partner at Sterling Seacrest Pritchard who has known McCurry for four decades. "Cliff lives a life of integrity that is so valuable in the insurance industry, which is built on trust. People trust Cliff. You know you're in good hands if Cliff is looking after you."

We're talking about the importance of connecting with people, but make no mistake, in the insurance broker world, McCurry is a giant (albeit a "gentle giant," as Sewell would say). There is his height — he stands 6-foot-5 (before attending UGA, he went to Armstrong

State University on a basketball scholarship) — but his stature in the Savannah business community looms the largest.

After joining the Georgia Army National Guard during the height of the Vietnam War (which he served in for six years) and attending basic training in 1969, McCurry married Kathy Hooper in 1970 and graduated from UGA a year later. The McCurrys returned to Savannah in 1971, where Cliff started his career with Mercer Insurance under the guidance of Nick Mamalakis (more about him later). He joined forces with fellow recent graduates — dubbed by Mamalakis as the "young professionals" — to promote the business through radio and newspaper advertising. The agency grew rapidly, and in five years the "young professionals" took over from Mamalakis. A few years after that, they received an offer from Jones and Hill and became Jones Hill and Mercer, one of Georgia's largest insurance companies.

It was the first in a sequence of mergers and acquisitions: In the late 1980s, Jones Hill and Mercer was bought by Hilb, Rogal, & Hobbs (HRH), one of the nation's largest insurers. In 2008, HRH was purchased by Willis, a London-based insurance giant.

"You always got people coming after your business," McCurry says.

It's an adage at the heart of the insurance trade. He remembers one year, as the renewal date for an insurance program came up, his client said a competitor came in with a proposal 15% lower than his.

"He says, 'What do you say about that?'" McCurry recalls. "And I said, 'Well, we're in the protection business and relationship business. We're not always going to be the cheapest. Who do you want holding your hand when the big one comes?'"

The client stayed, and eight days later the big one arrived. The "hail storm of the century" hit Savannah and slammed every car dealership on the Southside of town, four of which belonged to the client McCurry just renewed. "I was able to get a claims adjuster on the ground the next day," he says. "One of the things that's helped me retain business is them knowing we took care of them when the big storms came."

That commitment to his hometown extends far beyond his business. Inducted into the Savannah Business Hall of Fame in 2019, McCurry has served as a trustee for the St. Joseph's/Candler Health System Foundation, a board member for the World Trade Center Savannah and vice chair or chair for the Savannah Economic Development Authority, Communities in Schools of Savannah and Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. His son, Jamie, is the chief administrative officer at the Georgia Ports Authority, a key economic engine for Savannah and the state of Georgia. His many ties give him an inside view of the flourishing city.

"Savannah has just mushroomed — it's become a city that people not only want to visit, but they also want to live here," McCurry says. "It's been fun for me to see the growth of Savannah. Business here is as good as anywhere in the world. It's amazing that we continue to grow like this."

It's the part of the Cliff McCurry story to talk about Nick Mamalakis — or Mr. Mamalakis, as McCurry calls him.

McCurry's love for people and mentorship was set in motion by Mamalakis, a paragon in the Savannah community who took McCurry under his wing at the age of 12 after his parents divorced. Mamalakis got him the mail clerk job at Mercer, guaranteed his student loan at UGA (on the condition he would take RMI courses), and hired him out of college. When

McCurry's mother passed when he was a high school senior, Mamalakis took on a paternal role in the young man's life.

"Beyond just teaching me the business, he really cared about me, loved me," McCurry says. "He actually called me his third son. And so I tell young people that I've hired, like Ryan, that you're like a son to me, and I'm just as interested in your life personally as I am professionally."

The number of accolades Mamalakis received during his 91 years (he died in 2005) could fill a book but included being the first recipient from the South awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, given for outstanding service to the United States of America. McCurry strives each day to be the living example of his mentor and carry on his legacy in the city that "has been good to me and my family, and so much of it goes back to the lessons Mr. Mamalakis taught me," McCurry says.

Those lessons — be good to people and give back to those who helped — patterned his life, business and relationships. He's made sure to pass them to others.

"He's changed lives, shaped lives, built lives, had a great life himself, but I would imagine there's not a single day he's ever woken up and pat himself on the back," Sewell says. "People go through five stages, and growth is always the first one. Whenever Cliff finally gets to what they call conversion, he always starts over and tries to grow in the end. And that's what he imparts on people — he devotes his time to impact their lives." ■

A member of the Savannah Business Hall of Fame, Cliff McCurry is celebrated as much for his mentorship and relationship-building as for his business acumen.



"You know you're in good hands if Cliff is looking after you."

Photo by Richard Hamm



LEADING WITH Passion

Photo by Brian Powers

Lisa Laube (BBA '85) finds meaning in making things better

By Gabe Vodicka (ABJ '08)

Lisa Laube never misses a chance to go to the zoo. A member of the Zoo Atlanta board of directors since 2019 and its newly elected chairperson, Laube often stops in for meetings and conferences — or to catch up with her favorite residents, the big cats (“I like cat personalities,” she says).

On a brisk February morning, Laube spotted a few happy sights: two rhinos sharing a drink, a trio of speckled pigeons twittering on a branch, the ring-tailed lemur keeping cozy by a heat lamp.

But her favorite sights were the humans — the wide-eyed girl watching her first elephant, the boy craning his neck toward the giraffes, the mom tickled pink by the flamingos.

“I think it’s important for people to be able to come see these animals

and get a glimpse into a world they’ve never seen, or a country they’ve never heard of,” says Laube.

For Laube, it’s a convergence of passions.

“We run the zoo like a business,” says Zoo Atlanta CEO Raymond King, “but we have a very important mission of conservation, education, research. Board service takes somebody who has the business acumen but also a deep appreciation for our mission.”

Chairing a major board requires another, more intangible skill — a skill that served Laube well through a 35-year career, culminating in her retiring as president of Atlanta-based Floor & Decor in 2022.

“She’s very accomplished,” says King, “but she doesn’t have any ego about her at all. She doesn’t try to be the loudest voice in the room. But when she speaks, people listen.”



“Their dream for me and my siblings was to find what our passion was and to be happy.”

In her retail career, Laube also liked watching customers.

“To see something we spent a year and a half developing, somebody had to travel to another country five times to get right, the packaging went wrong three times, and it’s finally on the shelf... to see a customer walk up and say, ‘Oh my gosh, this is it,’ is so energizing.”

Laube’s affinity for “making things people love” emerged in a Terry marketing class called Personal Selling.

“The professor would hand us a pencil and say, ‘Sell this to me.’ And you’d have to think on your feet — what would make somebody want to buy this? I fell in love with that concept: What do people want? How do I get it for them?”

Enrolling in an executive training program at Rich’s out of college, Laube interviewed for an assistant buyer position at the department store.

Asked what she wanted to do with her career, she recalls making her aspirations clear.

“I remember almost hitting the desk and saying, ‘I want to run a company one day,’” she says.

Laube came by her ambition honestly. Her father was a successful banker, while her mother, without a college degree, entered the workforce during Laube’s childhood and became a vice president at a publishing company.

“Their dream for me and my siblings was to find what our passion was and to be happy,” she says. “They instilled in us that core value.”

Laube followed her passion for merchandising to Macy’s, which shortly closed its Atlanta division. Opportunities within the company beckoned in New York and San Francisco. Choosing the former, she and her husband, Billy (BBA ’77), packed up and headed north.

A series of roles at Linens ’N Things, Bath & Body Works and Party City took her through the ensuing years before an

enticing opportunity arose back home.

Floor & Decor founder Vincent West (BBA ’77), who started the specialty tile and flooring retailer in 2000 and sold it two years later, was again running the company after a period of stagnation. He wanted to get things back on track and needed the people to make it happen.

One person, he knew, was a crucial piece of the puzzle. She was serious about sales. She led with humility. But when she spoke, people listened.

“We had 28 stores,” says Laube, who joined the company as executive vice president and chief merchandising officer in 2012. “When I started, there was no office for me. So Vincent moved all his things off the conference table, and we shared his.”

Hiring CFO Trevor Lang and Tom Taylor — a Home Depot veteran who had spent the last few years in private equity — as CEO, West assembled the team to take the company into its new era.

That new era reached new heights on April 27, 2017, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Floor & Decor’s 28 stores were now 100, and sales were skyrocketing. The company’s leaders knew it was time to go public.

“It’s the single most fun thing I did in my career,” says Laube, describing a whirlwind of excitement and anticipation leading up to the IPO. “We traveled around to 58 investors, and all 58 wanted to buy in.”

Like investors, customers loved the revamped Floor & Decor. Under Laube’s leadership, stores had evolved from dim warehouses full of imposing stacks of flooring to clean, contemporary, aesthetically pleasing showrooms.

“We wanted to create an environment that didn’t exist” in the other big-box stores, Laube says, overlooking no detail from “the sound to the light to the product to the people.”

Certain practices set the company apart. Stores carried location-specific products targeted to their clientele. Design centers welcomed shoppers

Growing up in a tight-knit family, Lisa Laube discovered a passion for retail while at Terry.



“We wanted to create an environment that didn’t exist.”



suddenly energized to tackle that long-delayed bathroom remodel. Store managers were not mere managers — they were “chief executive merchants.”

The stock was a massive success. The company initially planned to price it at around \$16 per share. By the time of the offering, the number was \$21. When the first trade came in, it had risen by 50%.

“Lisa brought fashion and innovation” to Floor & Decor, says Taylor. “She transformed the experience in the stores, and the customers appreciated it.”

The company did, too. In 2020, Laube was promoted to president.

During lockdown, the home improvement business boomed. Laube found herself second in command at a company valued at over \$10 billion.

If she stayed, she knew she may one day become CEO. But the pandemic put certain things into perspective, and life was calling her elsewhere.

“Retiring was a huge decision,” she says. “It wasn’t one that I (made) easily. ... I loved my job. But it was the right time for me to move to the next phase of my life while I can enjoy it.”

Laube enjoys lots of things about retirement.

Slower days at the lake. Marathon pickleball matches. Quality time with friends and family. Traveling — so much traveling — to the national parks, Europe, New Zealand and beyond.

But what she most cherishes is the chance to instill in others what her parents taught her and her siblings: to follow their passions, to be confident, to never give up.

With no children of their own, Lisa and Billy find meaning in supporting disadvantaged youth — “showing kids you can be anything you want to be,” she says. To this end, they contribute to many local charities, established marketing and study away scholarships at the Terry College and created a scholarship at St. Pius X Catholic High School in Atlanta.

“If we can give one person the opportunity to travel and see more, if we can give one person the opportunity to learn to read, that’s important,” she explains.

Back at the zoo, Laube reflects on the intersection of her life’s work.

“Some of the kids that come here have never thought about traveling outside of Atlanta,” she says. “To show them animals from around the world opens their minds to things they didn’t know were possible.

“Careers, like lives, are not always straight lines,” she continues. “(But) if you can be meaningful to somebody if something you do positively impacts somebody else ... if you live with that kind of gratitude in your heart and that kind of optimism, you’ll do good things.” ■

After helping to take Floor & Decor public in 2017, Laube retired in 2020 and enjoys traveling, time with friends and giving back.

COMMUNITY: GREAT GRADS



PAYING Dividends

Photo by Brian Powers

Overcoming the odds, C. Morgan Moore (BBA ’13) credits the people who invested in his success

By Gabe Vodicka (ABJ ’08)

Strolling through the Terry College of Business, there’s no shortage of inspiration.

Plaques throughout the Business Learning Community display written messages from some of the college’s distinguished alumni. These words give thanks, reveal wisdom, build confidence.

They tell stories, too — even if they’re not always the *whole* story.

Tucked inside a sun-filled nook on the ground floor of Ivester Hall is a small gold sign with one such story.

In 19 words, the message captures a decades-long journey beginning with a Rabun County elementary school principal and featuring a cast of characters including an open-hearted guidance counselor and even one of the Terry College’s namesakes.

“In honor of all those who have invested in me,” reads the panel, donated

by Morgan Moore, “so that I, in turn, can invest in others.”

In many ways, Moore found a family at Terry. It was something he sought for much of his life.

Placed in foster care multiple times throughout his childhood, he was living with his biological mother when he surprised his kindergarten principal with an unusual question.

“I walked into the lunchroom,” recalls the principal, Iris Gillespie. “He jumped out of his seat and said, ‘Hi! I’m Morgan. Can I go home with you?’”

He asked again the next day, and the day after that.

“Finally,” she says, “I thought, ‘Something’s going on with this kid.’”

Moore, she learned, had a stormy home life. (“It was instability, chaos, poverty,” he says. “There was a lot of violence.”)



Though Gillespie (EdS '89) lacked the proper licensure to formally take Moore in, he began staying with her for stretches, her home a reliable safe haven.

As was school.

"I would wake up excited to go to school and build relationships with people that made me feel safe," Moore says. "Especially as my relationship with Iris grew, teachers went out of their way to give me a sense of purpose."

Moore became a model student. He rose to the top of his class in math and science. He became an avid reader.

"He'd pick out a book that was way too advanced for him," says Gillespie, "and dang if he didn't read it."

Moore recalls making a conscious decision to put every effort into overcoming the difficult circumstances he found himself in.

"It became clear to me that there existed two very different approaches to life," he says. "And each time I went into foster care, those two worlds became very distinct."

In middle school, he led clubs and made the football team. In high school, he ran for — and was elected — class president.

"I realized I had to take responsibility; I had to take control," he says. "If I wanted to get from where I was to where I wanted to go, I had to take ownership of that."

Moore got to where he wanted thanks in large part to a chance invite from his high school guidance counselor.

The school had given him its annual Wildcat Pride Award and needed a photo for the plaque. The counselor, Sherrie Stockton, offered her home as a location for the shoot.

The visit sparked a deep relationship with the Stocktons — including then-toddler and future Georgia quarterback Gunner — ultimately leading to Moore officially joining the family. ("Sherrie jokes that she literally took her work home with her," he says.)

"It was the first family I lived with that was exactly the family I wanted," he says. "They gave me the space I needed to excel, but they were also tough, because they wanted the best out of me. I think that's translated into how I approach work and life."

The Stocktons supported Moore as he graduated high school and enrolled at UGA.

"In a small town, there's an expectation of who you should be. (At) Georgia, my freshman dorm had more bodies in it than my entire high school class. ... That was something I was excited about: how big and diverse it was."

Moore joined numerous student organizations and was hired as a football assistant. Entering Terry, he majored in marketing, served as a Terry Ambassador and was named a Deer Run Fellow.

He also formed an unexpected friendship.

Overcoming a rocky childhood, Morgan Moore graduated at the top of his high school class and thrived as an undergraduate student at Terry.

"If I wanted to get to where I wanted to go, I had to take ownership."



Photo by Brian Powers

"There is a light in Morgan. Everybody saw the same person, the same level of energy, the same excitement, the curiosity."

A sales representative with Principal Financial Group, Morgan Moore is known as someone who cares about his colleagues and his customers.

"One of my roles as an ambassador was working on events, and I had the honor of escorting Mary Virginia Terry a number of times," he says. "We ended up becoming pretty close."

Their relationship showed him the power of giving.

"I had some bills that were kind of hanging over my head," says Moore. "I'd taken out a small loan to pay for them."

At graduation, he received an anonymous financial gift.

"Mary Virginia wanted to take care of any (debt) I had when I graduated," he later learned.

Several years on, Moore made his own gift to his alma mater. He dedicated it to those who invested in him — including Mary Virginia.

Hired at Principal Financial Group's Charlotte, North Carolina, office right out of school, Moore quickly made a name for himself within the Fortune 500 company.

"What struck me was his personality, energy and enthusiasm," says Reid Matheny, a regional vice president at the firm and one of Moore's early mentors.

Jenifer Moses, a now-retired Principal VP who was part of the hiring team offering Moore his first job, agrees that he stood out immediately.

"There is a light in Morgan," she says. "When you're interviewing 20 people right out of college, it gets a little routine. But there is an energy (from) Morgan where everybody saw the same person, the same level of energy, the same excitement, the curiosity. ... He was a unanimous yes, which was rare."

As a sales representative offering group insurance products to small- and mid-sized businesses, Moore earned a reputation as a leader in his division.

"We have a (sales) contest, and it's not easy — the top 20 percent in each group qualify — and he qualified very early on," says Matheny. "I could tell that was just the start."

He has since won the contest three times. Moreover, Moore is known throughout the company as a relationship-builder — someone who truly cares about improving experiences for his colleagues, customers and brokers.

"Some reps go an inch deep and a mile wide, and that's the complete opposite of Morgan," says Matheny. "He loves to develop and deepen relationships, and (people) notice it."

Moore mentors younger co-workers and played a large role in expanding the company's sales development program.

It's something he's clearly proud to now be able to do — invest in others.

"I'm a reflection of the journey I've had. I'm a collage of all these different experiences," he says. "And I think it's uniquely positioned me to empower people."

He inspires, as well. As someone who grew up shuttling between identities by necessity, his message to those he invests in is simple.

"I try to build their confidence in terms of being authentic. I want them to feel safe, because when you take away the stress of trying to conform to a specific mold, that's when you can really excel.

"Do what you want," he adds. "But be who you are." ■



SHELTER FROM THE STORM

Risk management faculty establish research partnerships for climate risk adaptation

By Merritt Melancon (ABJ '02, MA '19)

The past two decades brought record-breaking weather — and record-breaking costs.

Between 1980 and 2000, the U.S. experienced 90 billion-dollar disasters causing total inflation-adjusted losses of \$561 billion to homes and businesses. In contrast, since 2005 there were 286 such disasters totaling \$2.2 trillion. More than half of the 25 largest disasters since 1980 happened in the past 10 years.

“The frequency of high-dollar extreme events has increased substantially,” says **Marc Ragin**, associate professor in the C. Herman Terry Risk Management and Insurance Program. “Part of that is due to climate changes. Part of that is due to people building in high-risk areas. There are many factors. But even in areas not exposed to hurricane or fire risks, we’re seeing a higher incidence of hail (or) high winds. Risk related to natural disasters, across the board, has increased.”

Property insurers combine the likelihood of disasters with the cost of rebuilding to create pricing structures, but both factors are trending up with no clear end in sight. Without significant change, homeowners won’t be able to afford policies covering their actual risks — assuming insurers even offer them.

Ragin says focusing on high premiums treats the symptoms rather than the disease.

“Insurance companies set prices based on risk, and if risk continues to increase, so will premiums. Installing physical protections can reduce risk, but understanding a community’s needs, educating residents about their options and incentivizing them to act pose significant challenges.”

To address these challenges, Ragin is working to establish partnerships within and outside UGA, including with policymakers, industry leaders, nonprofits and universities.

One proposed partnership is the Center for Innovation in Risk Analysis for Climate Adaptation and Decision-Making (CIRCAD). A research collaboration with Duke University, it involves more than 20 UGA faculty from all over campus, including experts in risk management, engineering, atmospheric science, urban planning, public affairs and anthropology.

As UGA’s CIRCAD site director, Ragin is tasked with developing and executing the center’s strategy, overseeing its research projects and connecting researchers to organizations exposed to climate risk.

The center’s research will be funded by companies who each pay a \$75,000 annual membership fee. Company representatives comprise an advisory board, which votes on which projects to fund. This industry-focused approach requires researchers to frame projects around meeting the needs of at-risk industries.

Ragin hopes this approach will make an impact in theory and in practice.

“The funding model will create a research agenda greater than the sum of its parts,” he says. “All these companies have some sort of research division, but they work with limited budgets. ... It’s a way to pool and leverage limited budgets and pursue bigger projects than companies might otherwise be able to.”

Several Terry faculty have projects on CIRCAD’s agenda. Ragin is working with Duke environmental policy leaders to explore community-wide insurance pools for wildfire-prone neighborhoods. David Eckles, the Thomas and Kristin Golub Professor in Risk Management and Insurance, plans to study insurance innovations to protect against losses from extreme heat. Rob Hoyt, the Dudley L. Moore Jr. Chair of Insurance, plans to study risk management frameworks for severe weather. Other projects focus on how communities and local governments can incentivize preparedness and risk-aware development.

Ragin says an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to enhance the potential of otherwise siloed research. For example, UGA’s College of Engineering boasts several experts in nature-based solutions — using natural landscapes rather than conventional engineered solutions to mitigate risk.

Matthew Bilske, assistant professor of engineering and UGA co-director for CIRCAD, uses drones and radar models to predict how tidal and storm surges and rainfall runoff affect coastal areas.

“A lot of my work is understanding how natural landscapes mitigate flooding hazard through new modeling and field-based work,” Bilske says. “We’ve got a ton of sensors we can deploy. We have a fleet of drones we fly. And that helps understand one aspect. But we’re also looking at other aspects — how we transition from hazard modeling to a dollar amount.”

Dollar amounts help communities evaluate whether to install nature-based solutions. But they also matter to banks and insurance companies. Together, Bilske and Ragin are working to quantify the costs and benefits of these solutions.

“There are a lot of open questions about how to handle the increase in catastrophic events we’ve seen in the last 20 years,” Bilske says. “This research will be a first step in answering those questions and motivating action at the scale needed to navigate an uncertain future.” ■

“AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IS NECESSARY TO ENHANCE THE POTENTIAL OF OTHERWISE SILOED RESEARCH.”



BHARADWAJ



GAMACHE



KANE



KARAHANNA



LAM



PARKER



SAFADI



SCHUSTER



SEVILLA



TOWERY



ZIMMERMANN

The American Marketing Association selected **Sundar Bharadwaj**, who serves as The Coca-Cola Company Chair of Marketing, for its newest class of AMA Fellows. The program honors those who made a significant contribution to marketing research, theory and practice over a prolonged time.

Daniel Gamache, associate professor of management, was named an international research fellow at the Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation. The center supports research into how organizations manage social evaluations such as reputation, status, celebrity, legitimacy, stigma and trust.

Gerald Kane, C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Chair of Business Administration, professor and head of the Department of Management Information Systems, received the Davis-Dickson Impact Award from *MIS Quarterly*. The award recognizes a paper published a decade earlier that had a significant and sustained impact.

C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Distinguished Chair of Business Administration and UGA Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Management Information Systems **Elena Karahanna** joined the advisory board for the National University of Singapore's Centre for Computational Social Science and Humanities and the

Association for Information Systems Special Interest Group on Human-Computer Interaction.

The *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science* recognized Emily H. and Charles M. Tanner Jr. Chair in Sales Management and marketing professor **Son Lam** as one of the journal's top five outstanding area editors in 2024.

Marty Parker, a senior lecturer in the Department of Management, was named a Top Voice by the community engagement team at LinkedIn. Parker is the first UGA-affiliated person to be awarded the badge, given to subject matter experts who most effectively spread their message on the employment-focused social media platform.

Hani Safadi, associate professor in the Department of Management Information Systems, won the 2024 Association for Information Systems Mid-Career Award and the 2024 INFORMS Information System Society Sandra A. Slaughter Early Career Award. Both recognize the impact of the researcher's body of work on the field of information science.

Mike Schuster, associate professor in the Legal Studies Program, received the 2024 Ralph Hoeber Memorial Award for Excellence in Research

from the *American Business Law Journal* and the 2024 awards for Best Interdisciplinary Paper and Best Sports and Entertainment Law Paper from the Academy of Legal Studies in Business.

The Advertising Research Foundation inducted **Julio Sevilla, L.** Edmund Rast Chair of Business and marketing professor, into the 2024 class of Marketing Science Institute Scholars. He was one of only 33 marketing researchers worldwide invited to participate in the roundtable.

The American Accounting Association recognized J.M. Tull School of Accounting KPMG-Atlanta Partners' and Employees' Professor **Erin Towery** with the 2024 Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award. The award is given for work published in the previous five years and recognizes its impact on the future of accounting literature. Her paper, "How do IRS Resources Affect the Corporate Audit Process?", was published in 2020 in *The Accounting Review*.

The UGA Office of Research recognized **Laura Zimmermann**, associate professor in the John Munro Godfrey, Sr. Department of Economics, and her interdisciplinary research team at the Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach with the 2024 Team Impact Award. ■

class notes



After spending nearly two decades as a talent and management consultant, **Jasmine Flowers Mazyck** (MBA '10) was named a managing partner with Flowers Communications Group, a Chicago-based marketing firm.

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1960-64

Fremont Dixon (BBA '64) of Refugio, Texas, transitioned to part-time work after a long and successful career including extensive contracting service with the U.S. Air Force and across industries such as ranching, real estate, insurance and accounting.

1970-74

Chris Cannon (BBA '72) of Albany was appointed to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by Gov. Brian Kemp. A longstanding pillar of the South Georgia business community, he founded many companies and is owner and operator of Flint Equipment Co.



David Burch (BBA '73) of St. Simons Island joined Cambridge Investment Research's Premier Club, an honor given to financial professionals demonstrating excellent client service while reflecting the core values of integrity, commitment, flexibility and kindness. He is the founder of Lighthouse Financial Advisors.

1975-79

Wade Monk (BBA '75, JD '77) of Rome published his debut novel, *The Imperfect Hand of Fate*, a spy thriller set during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He practiced law with Smith, Shaw & Maddox for 25 years before joining Atrium Health/Floyd as chief legal officer in 2001. He retired from law practice in 2015.



Janis Ware (BBA '77) of Atlanta was honored with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association. She is the longtime publisher of *The Atlanta Voice*, a newspaper that has served the Atlanta community since 1966, and executive director of SUMMECH Development Corp.

Benny McLendon (BBA '78) of Lyons was named the Lyons Citizen of the Year by the Lyons Lions Club. He is president of McLendon Enterprises, a full-service civil construction company that has been based in Southeast Georgia since 1979.

Bruce Moskowitz (BBA '79) of Wilmington, N.C., merged his wealth management practice with LifeTime Asset & Tax Management. A financial advisor in Wilmington for over 30 years, he was previously principal of Sterling Wealth Management.

1980-84

James Fritze (BBA '81, MAcc '82) of Macon was named president and

CEO of NewTown Macon, a nonprofit economic development agency. He has been with the organization since 2018 and previously served as CFO.

Steve Burdette (BBA '83) of Lawrenceville was named president and CEO of Havertys. He began his career as a manager trainee with the company in 1983 and has served in various roles throughout the years, most recently as president.

Randy Forth (BBA '83) of Atlanta joined Brookfield Properties as SVP of asset management. A 40-year real estate veteran, he was previously EVP and chief asset management officer with Preferred Apartment Communities.

Greg Hearn (BBA '83) of Royston was inaugurated as the 10th president of Emmanuel University. He spent the previous decade as the university's EVP and CFO and also serves as CEO for Community Services Group.

1985-89

Dana Hermanson (BBA '86) of Marietta was named one of two 2025 American Accounting Association Presidential Scholars and will deliver an address at the organization's annual meeting in August. He is Dinos Eminent Scholar Chair of Private Enterprise and



Karen Bennett (BBA '85, MBA '11) of Waleska joined the board of directors of Girls Inc., a national nonprofit that aims to empower girls and young women. A former Terry Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, she is EVP and chief people officer with Cox Enterprises.



Walt Glazer (BBA '83) rang the closing bell on the Nasdaq exchange in August to celebrate Escalade Inc.'s 51 years trading on the exchange. He is president, CEO and chairman of the board of the company, a designer and manufacturer of recreational products.

professor of accounting at Kennesaw State University.

Elizabeth Reed (BBA '86, MBA '87) of Jacksonville, Fla., was hired as executive director of The Shepherd's Center of Orange Park, a nonprofit inspiring dynamic living among older adults. A certified health and well-being coach, she specializes in plant-based nutrition and stress management.

Todd Bitzer (BBA '88) of Duluth joined Franklin Templeton as SVP and client advisor. He has over 30 years of financial industry experience, most recently as a managing director with Lucid Management and Capital Partners.

Ann Dozier (AB '88) of Pompano Beach, Fla., joined retail and wholesale holding company Ahold Delhaize as chief information officer. An



Steve Garraty (BBA '91) of Tampa, Fla., published a nonfiction book, *Greatfruit: How Cancer Led to Living a More Fruitful Life*. An author and motivational speaker, he also works as a regional VP of sales for Salesforce.

experienced IT leader, she previously served as SVP and chief information and technology officer for Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits.

1990-94

Blake Fine (AB '91) of Marietta joined commercial real estate firm JLL as an executive director. He previously worked for the company from 2017 to 2021 and has over 24 years of valuation experience, most recently as EVP with Keystone Valuations.

Jay Hallinan (BBA '91) of Charlotte, N.C., was appointed as chief commercial officer for Q'Apel Medical, a private medical device company focused on neurovascular interventions. He has over two decades in the industry, most recently as VP of North America for Stryker.

Mark Kimball (AB '91) of Murphy, N.C., was named COO of Southwell Medical. He has nearly three decades of health care leadership experience including administrative and executive roles with several hospital systems.

Doug Shirley (BBA '91) of Nashville, Tenn., was named CFO of ScionHealth, a hospital system based in Louisville, Ky. He has over 25 years of experience in health care finance and revenue cycle management and previously served as EVP and CFO with PathGroup.

Clint Hinds (BBA '92) of Chevy Chase, Md., was named president and CEO of BGO Industrial Real Estate Income Trust, a division of BentallGreenOak. He has been a managing director on BGO's portfolio management team since 2019.

Charles Lamb (BBA '92, JD '98) of Albany joined the U.S. Department of the Navy as an EEO specialist and final agency decision writer. He previously

worked as an attorney in private practice and was most recently an EEO investigator with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Mason Rountree (BBA '92) of Powder Springs was appointed by Gov. Brian Kemp to serve as a judge on the Paulding County State Court. He is founding partner of Rountree Law Firm, where he practiced non-domestic civil litigation, misdemeanor criminal defense and small business law.

Scott Frame (MA '93, PhD '96) of Alpharetta joined the Bank Policy Institute as SVP and deputy head of research. An experienced economist, he previously served as head of policy with the Structured Finance Association.



Bob Ellis (BBA '92) of Milton was elected as vice chair of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. He is the board's District 2 commissioner representing Milton, Mountain Park and parts of Alpharetta, Roswell and Sandy Springs.



Jenny Koehn (BBA '96) of Denver, Colo., was promoted to president of Condit, a company specializing in creating event and trade show booths and museum displays. She began with the company in 2008 as an account executive and most recently spent a decade as VP of sales.

1995-99

Alan Brogdon (AB '95) of Chicago, Ill., was hired as chief technology officer for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. He has over two decades of experience in business technology, most recently serving as COO of the Progeria Research Foundation.



Ivan Tornos (BBA '97) of Coral Gables, Fla., was named chair of the board of directors for Zimmer Biomet, a manufacturer of orthopedics products. He joined the company in 2018 as a group president and now serves as president and CEO.

Michelle Pagano (BBA '95) of Acworth was promoted to VP of compensation for Genuine Parts Co. She has been with the company for over six years and has nearly 30 years of total rewards experience with various firms.

Jeremy Jones (BBA '97) of Marietta was named incoming managing partner with Frazier & Deeter beginning in January 2026. He has more than 25 years of public accounting experience, including 23 years with the firm.

Roberto Billa (MBA '98) of Oak Park, Ill., was appointed as CFO of Gorilla Logic, a digital product engineering services firm. An accomplished finance executive, he most recently served as head of finance, North America for ThoughtWorks, a technology consulting firm.

Bo Hatcher (AB '98) of Albany qualified for Ameriprise Financial Services' Circle of Success for the second consecutive year. He has 24 years of experience in the financial services industry and works as a financial advisor with Colony Financial Advisors.

David Pittman (BBA '98) of Brookhaven joined Bonaventure, a real estate investment company, as head of capital markets. He has over 22 years of experience in financial services, most recently as SVP of capital markets for Cottonwood Communities.

Ben Daniel (BBA '99, MBA '07) of Alpharetta was included in the 2024 CHEP Circle of Excellence for outstanding achievement in data science related to cost analytics. He is a senior manager of revenue data science with the company.

2000-04

Andy Marshall (BBA '00) of Brookhaven was hired as head of capital markets for Metric Financial, an independent broker dealer. He has more than 24 years of financial services experience and comes to Metric from Bonaventure, where he also served as head of capital markets.

David Cleveland (BBA '01) of Pendergrass was named VP of marketing, member services and governmental affairs for Jackson EMC. He joined the utility in 2017 and most recently served as managing director of business development and government affairs.

Brent Kinman (MBA '01) of Athens joined PrimeRevenue, a B2B payment



Nick Sulaiman (BBA '97) of Duluth was appointed as president and COO of Crossroads Treatment Centers. He has more than 18 years of senior health care leadership, most recently serving as CEO of Skin & Aesthetic Centers.

services company, as VP of payments. A former U.S. Navy officer, he previously held senior roles at companies including Arthur Andersen, SAP, Corcentric and apexanalytix.

Jake Reid (BBA '01) of Alpharetta joined CBRE as SVP focusing on middle-



Jamie Shepherd (BBA '02) of Atlanta was named CEO of the Shepherd Center, a hospital providing specialized care for spinal cord and brain injuries and other neurological conditions. A third-generation founding family member of the nonprofit center, he served as president and COO since 2022.

market multifamily sales throughout the Atlanta area and Southeastern U.S. He has more than 21 years of industry experience, previously as a managing director with Capstone Companies.

Alissa Vickery (BBA '01, MAcc '01) of Smyrna was named interim CFO of Corpay, a global payments company. She joined the company in 2011 and has served as its chief accounting officer since 2020.

John Dinsmore (MBA '03) of Dayton, Ohio, published a nonfiction book, *The Marketing of Debt: How They Get You*, "an irreverent look at the financial services industry." He is a professor of marketing at the Wright State University Raj Soin College of Business.

Will Harkins (BBA '03, MAcc '03) of Marietta joined pest control company Rollins as its chief accounting officer. He was previously chief accounting officer and corporate controller with Mohawk Industries.

Brandon Hartley (MBA '03) of Grayson joined the board of directors for Gwinnett Technical College. An experienced telecommunications professional, he works as director of external affairs for AT&T.

Kent Oliver (BBA '03) of Hattiesburg, Miss., joined the board of directors of the International Myeloma Foundation. A myeloma survivor and patient advocate, he is director of strategic growth at Raanes & Oliver Capital Advisors.



Paul Shoukry (BBA '05, MAcc '05) of Tampa, Fla., was appointed as CEO of Raymond James. He has been with the financial services company since 2010 and most recently served as CFO.



Tim Evans (MBA '09) of Gainesville was named president and CEO of the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce. A Certified Economic Developer, he joined the chamber in 2005 and also serves as treasurer for the Gainesville and Hall County Development Authority.

Reagan Wolfe (BBA '03) of Athens was named the No. 14 best-in-state financial security professional in Georgia by *Forbes* magazine. A financial advisor with Ashford Advisors, he focuses his practice largely on working with entrepreneurs and owners of closely held businesses.

Hamilton Hilsman (AB '94, MBA '04) of Columbus was named president of The Family Office at Synovus. An experienced banking veteran, he has been with Synovus for nearly three decades and most recently served as director of TFO.

2005-09

Danny Mills (BBA '05) of Brookhaven was promoted to assistant general counsel at Cox Enterprises. He previously served as senior corporate counsel for Cox Enterprises and Cox Communications.

Nick Roecker (BBA '05) of Atlanta joined global law firm Reed Smith LLP as a partner. He previously spent more than a decade at Alston & Bird, first as a senior associate and then as a partner.

Shawn Vincent (MBA '05) of Hinsdale, Ill., was elected to serve as chairman of the board for the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. He is president and CEO of Loyola Medicine, CEO of Saint Joseph Health System and president of Trinity Health's Illinois/Indiana region.

Kevin Caille (BBA '06, MBA '16) of Roswell was named SVP of Broe Real Estate Group's Southeast region. He has nearly two decades of industrial real estate development experience, most recently as a market officer with Dalfen Industrial.

Phil Bonelli (BBA '07) of Gainesville founded Roundtable Advisors, a multidisciplinary consulting firm providing fractional CFOs and COOs and strategic consulting services. He was most recently an SVP with Regions Bank.

Khurram Thobhani (AB '07) of Alpharetta launched an Atlanta-area franchise of Pickleball Kingdom, an indoor pickleball venue. He works as director of global sourcing with Assurant.

Ben Colley (BBA '08, AB '08) of Roswell joined CIBC as managing director and business development officer with its asset-based lending team. He has more than 12 years of experience in asset management and previously served as SVP with PNC Business Credit.



Travis Storin (BBA '07, MAcc '08) of Fort Collins, Colo., was hired as SVP and CFO for United Power. He joins the cooperative after nearly 10 years with the City of Fort Collins, where he served as CFO since 2020.

CLASS NOTES

Worth McArthur (BBA '08) of Jacksonville, Fla., joined the board of directors of JEA, a community-owned electric utility company. A U.S. Navy veteran who served as a SEAL Team commander, he is president of N.G. Wade Investment Co.

Amanda Riedling (BBA '08, JD '11) of Marietta was sworn in as the Cobb County Bar Association's new president in March. An owner and partner at Georgia Wills, Trusts, and Probate Firm LLC, she will serve a one-year term.

Kristi Brigman (BBA '09, MAcc '10, AB '11, JD '13) of Atlanta was named chief economic development officer for the Metro Atlanta Chamber. She joins the MAC from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, where she served as deputy commissioner for global commerce.

2010-14

Jasmine Flowers Mazyck (MBA '10) of Powder Springs was named a managing partner with Flowers Communications Group, a Chicago-based marketing firm. Prior to joining the company in 2022, she spent 17 years as a talent and management consultant. In addition, she was recently named a Top 100 Under 50 by *Diversity MBA* magazine.

Andy Conn (BBA '11, JD '14) of Savannah opened Conn Law, serving clients in



Josh Gately (BBA '11) of Atlanta was appointed as VP of development for the James Campbell Company, a Hawaii-based real estate investment firm. Prior to joining JCC, he was SVP of development at Portman Holdings.



Preston Berger (BBA '18, AB '18) of Nashville, Tenn., joined Big Machine Music as senior manager of publishing, overseeing the company's roster of songwriters. He started in the music business as an agent assistant at CAA before moving to Black River Entertainment's publishing department.

a wide range of practice areas. An experienced litigator, he previously spent a decade with Harris Lowry Manton, where he left as a partner.

Harley Yancey (BBA '11, JD '15) of Rome was appointed to serve on the North Georgia Mountains Authority by Gov. Brian Kemp. He is president of State Mutual Insurance Co., where he also serves on the company's board of directors.

Andrea Densmore (BBA '12) of Johns Creek joined 3Ci, a technology services company, as president. She previously spent five years with Slalom Consulting, where she was leader of business strategy.

Christine Curry (BBA '13) was honored with the National Association of Industrial Office Properties (NAIOP) Developing Leaders Award. She serves as VP of education for NAIOP's Georgia chapter and is VP of investments at Selig Enterprises.

Tish Harrison (MBA '13) of Atlanta was named CFO for Segra, operator of one of the nation's largest fiber networks. She has been with parent company Cox Enterprises for nearly two decades, previously serving as assistant VP of business transformation for Cox Communications.

Sean Rosko (BBA '14) of Kennesaw was hired at Middleburg Communities as a development partner. He joins the company from South City Partners, where he served as VP of development.

2015-19

Greg Davis (MBA '15) of Atlanta was named to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 40 Under 40 class of 2025. He is VP and Atlanta market manager of Davis Broadcasting, a family-owned operator of several radio stations.

Alex Freedman (BBA '15) of Greenville, S.C., was promoted to VP of sales with Techtronic Industries, a manufacturer of power tools and other cordless appliances. He has been with the company for a decade.



Loretta Arrington (BBA '17) of Snellville joined North American Auto Transportation as VP of remarketing logistics. A veteran in the industry with 24 years of experience in transportation, she was formerly director of remarketing logistics for Moore Transport.



Sally D'Avanzo (BBA '19) of Nashville, Tenn., was promoted to associate business manager with business management firm Farris, Self & Moore. She has been with the company, which represents artists and songwriters, since 2020 and was previously a client manager.

Kyle Duran (BBA '16, MAcc '17) of Holly Springs was promoted to VP of accounting at REVELxp, a sports hospitality company. He joined the firm in 2023 after six years in public accounting.

Chapman Wilkinson (BBA '16) of Atlanta was named senior sales representative for Medtronic Spine and Biologics. An experienced medical sales professional, he also sits on the Atlanta Youth Academy board of trustees.

Jeb Blazeovich (BBA '17) of Savannah was promoted to partner at Sterling Seacrest Pritchard serving as an employee benefits broker consultant. He joined the firm in 2021 and was previously a client advisor.

Ali Momin (BBA '17) of Peachtree City was promoted to VP with Fulcrum Equity Partners, a private equity firm. He returned to Fulcrum after spending time at Primus Capital Partners and Truist Securities.

Chrissy Agricola (MBA '18) of Atlanta was named senior director of product management by Airwavz Solutions, managing both the product and services portfolio. Prior to joining Airwavz in 2023, she spent 12 years with Verizon as a real estate expert.

Larry Richardson (MBA '18) of Senoia was named CEO of AmeriPro Health, a medical transportation firm. He is co-founder of the company, which has 1,300 employees across nine states.

William Amos (BBA '19) of Perry is preparing to open his fifth location of national sandwich chain Jimmy John's, in Byron. Prior to franchising his first restaurant in 2022, he was an accountant with AnalyticsIQ.

Taylor Hill (BBA '19) of Atlanta was promoted to senior property manager for Coro Realty. Prior to joining Coro, she was a commercial property manager with The Shopping Center Group.

2020-24

Jeremiah Cook (BBA '20) of College Station, Texas, was promoted to assistant director of tourism for the City of College Station. He previously held sales roles with Experience Rochester, MN and the Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Hannah Curcuru (BBA '20) of Atlanta was hired as a senior corporate accountant at The Beach Co., overseeing the company's corporate finances. She previously served as a senior property accountant with Greenleaf Management.

Matt Lyons (BBA '20) of San Diego, Calif., was promoted to wealth associate at Trilogy Financial. He joined the firm in 2023 from Empower, where he served as a retirement representative.

Amanda Graham (BBA '21, JD '24) of Atlanta joined the Supreme Court of Georgia as a term law clerk for Justice Carla Wong McMillian. She served on the managing board of the *Georgia Law Review* and was VP of UGA's chapter of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers.



Walt Deriso (MBA '20) of Atlanta was named CEO of The Family Office at Synovus. He has been with the bank for nearly a decade, most recently serving as SVP, director of strategic growth and family office solutions for TFO.

Amanda Arboleda Ridley (BBA '21) of Cartersville opened a Peachtree Corners location of Perspire Sauna Studio, a luxury wellness company. She previously spent three years with EY.

Scott Thompson (MBA '22) of Roswell was appointed as chief development officer for Radiance Holdings. He has more than two decades of franchising experience, most recently with Premier Martial Arts, where he served as president.

George Brown (BBA '24) of Arlington, Va., joined Colliers' Savannah office as an associate focusing on working with occupiers, owners and investors of commercial and industrial properties.



Maranie Brown (MBT '24) of Smyrna was named a 40 Under 40 for 2024 by *Georgia Trend* magazine. A VP of data product delivery with BlackRock, her volunteer work includes roles with HOPE Atlanta, Ser Familia and United Way of Greater Atlanta.

➡ CLASS NOTES: PASSINGS

1940s

Anna A. Dixon (BBA '46), Juliette, March 24. **Robert 'Bob' L. Barber** (BBA '49), Allen, Texas, Oct. 5. **H. Preston Camp Sr.** (BBA '49), Cedar town, Oct. 13. **Frank D. Nelms** (BBA '49), Douglasville, March 19.

1950s

Robert 'Bob' M. Sessions (BBA '50), Atlanta, Oct. 24. **Helen S. Beckham** (BBA '51), Molena, March 17. **Wayland 'Ray' R. Walker** (BBA '51), Alma, March 15. **Emmett N. Wier** (BBA '51), Moseley, Va., Feb. 28. **Carl T. Darby** (BBA '52), Augusta, Nov. 22. **Irwin 'Irv' M. Levine** (BBA '52), Dunwoody, Jan. 19. **Jimmy 'Jim' F. McBrayer** (BBA '52), Rome, Feb. 21. **Bob T. Clark** (BBA '53, MBA '57), Houston, Texas, Feb. 13. **D. Ramsay Simmons Jr.** (BBA '53), Bainbridge, Jan. 7. **Philip 'Phil' Sunshine** (BBA '53), Atlanta, Jan. 19. **Benjamin 'Ben' Aronson** (BBA '54), Alpharetta, Oct. 26. **William 'Bill' L. Easterlin Jr.** (BBA '54), Atlanta, Dec. 9. **Wiley S. Ansley III** (BBA '56), Atlanta, Oct. 16. **Floyd E. Davis Jr.** (BBA '56), Hoover, Ala., March 16. **Robert 'Bobby' I. Garrard** (BBA '56), Peachtree City, Nov. 2. **William 'Bill' P. House** (BBA '56), Charlotte, N.C., Nov. 28. **William 'Bill' B. Wright Jr.** (BBA '57), Dalton, Feb. 17. **Burton 'Burt' L. Bridges** (BBA '58), Atlanta, Nov. 29. **Joseph 'JD' D. Christy** (BBA '58), Atlanta, Feb. 26. **Terry L. Liebowitz** (BBA '58), New Orleans, La., Dec. 23. **John F. McMullan** (BBA '58, MBA '60), Atlanta, Jan. 8. **Joe F. Ragland** (BBA '58), Chatsworth, Jan. 24. **Don Smith Jr.** (BBA '58), Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 1. **Lt. Col. Barney P. Hancock** (BBA '59), Thomaston, Feb. 21. **James 'David' D. Higgins** (BBA '59), Bremen, Dec. 23. **Tom 'Teeter' C. Smith** (BBA '59), Highlands, N.C., Feb. 4. **Roland R. Wilbanks** (BBA '59), Greer, S.C., Nov. 4.

1960s

Mack E. Elder (BBA '60, MBA '61), Athens, Oct. 1. **William 'Bill' H. Hudgins** (BBA '60), Watkinsville, Dec. 28. **C. Walton 'Walt' Killingsworth Sr.** (BBA '60), Fort Gaines, March 18. **James 'Jim' G. Wilcox Jr.** (BBA '60), Macon, Nov. 28. **John 'Buddy' E. Broadnax Jr.** (BBA '61), Athens, Jan. 16. **Patrick 'Pat' H. Casey Sr.** (BBA '61), Atlanta, Feb. 17. **John R. Fortson Sr.** (BBA '61), Apple River, Ill., Jan. 20. **Sally C. Fulkerson** (BBA '61), Burnsville, Minn., Feb. 8. **Charles W. Hendry Sr.** (BBA '61), Hermitage, Tenn., Dec. 10. **Donald 'Don' P. Lanier** (BBA '61), Fayetteville, Dec. 17. **John M. Bates Sr.** (BBA '62), Dalton, Oct. 10. **J. Wendell Godbee Sr.** (BBA '62), Valdosta, Jan. 5. **Richard D. Gregg** (BBA '62), Rocky Face, March 28. **J. Milton Heard III** (AB '62), Macon, Dec. 1. **L. Jay Hill Jr.** (BBA '62), Eatonton, March 2. **R. Denson Martin Jr.** (BBA '62), Dahlonega, Jan. 26. **Robert 'Bobby' R. McLendon III** (BBA '62), Blakely, Dec. 17. **Herbert 'Herb' A. O'Keefe** (BBA '62, MAcc '67), Midway, Feb. 22. **John 'Tim' T. Ingram** (BBA '63), Edison, Feb. 11. **Roy M. Jones Sr.** (BBA '63), Cairo, Jan. 26. **Ernest J. Odum Jr.** (BBA '63), Evans, Feb. 14. **Charles 'Charlie' W. Reed Jr.** (BBA '63), St. Simons Island, Dec. 15. **Jon M. Stovall** (BBA '63), Duluth, Dec. 16. **Travis H. Thompson** (BBA '63), Dalton, Jan. 12. **Joseph 'Joe' H. Boland Jr.** (BBA '64), Atlanta, Jan. 14. **Homer P. Borders** (BBA '64), Athens, Feb. 1. **Jerry E. Clack** (BBA '64), Blue Ridge, Feb. 8. **John 'John Marshall' M. Jackson** (AB '62, BBA '64), Waynesboro, Dec. 4. **James 'Ronald' R. Knight** (BBA '64), Ellijay, Oct. 11. **Donald L. Mathis** (BBA '64), Marietta, Dec. 25. **Earl 'Jack' J. Phillips Jr.** (BBA '64), Columbus, Dec. 17. **Jesse 'Winford' W. Poitevint** (BBA '64), Fayetteville, Nov. 4. **Richard R. Shaw** (BBA '64), Gainesville, Nov. 27. **John W. Avery Jr.** (BBA '65), Atlanta, Feb.

23. **John G. Ludwig Sr.** (BBA '65), Lincolnton, Jan. 8. **Raford 'Ray' P. Rogers Jr.** (BBA '65, JD '72), Tifton, Nov. 7. **Jerry Carter** (BBA '66), Jackson, Nov. 17. **Marion L. Cartwright** (BBA '66), Athens, Dec. 29. **T. Edward 'Eddie' Echols Sr.** (BBA '66), St. Simons Island, Jan. 18. **Thomas 'Tom' S. Gates** (BBA '66), Bainbridge, Jan. 8. **Wyatt E. Johnson Sr.** (AB '66), Sandy Springs, Nov. 3. **William 'Billy' L. Kleinpeter** (BBA '66), Savannah, Oct. 1. **Michael 'Mike' J. Lyons III** (BBA '66), Cabot, Ark., Jan. 14. **David 'Dave' K. Vansant** (BBA '66), Yulee, Fla., Dec. 17. **Charles 'Charlie' O. Bowen Jr.** (BBA '67), Waycross, Jan. 10. **James 'Jim' E. Boyd** (BBA '67), Atlanta, Nov. 17. **James 'Jimbo' E. Brasington** (BBA '67), Waycross, Oct. 23. **Donald 'Don' B. Covington** (BBA '67), Roswell, March 11. **Jack N. Harris** (BBA '67), Athens, Nov. 22. **Ronald 'Ronnie' E. Morris** (BBA '67), Douglasville, Oct. 6. **Charles 'Chuck' R. Tucker** (BBA '67), Hobe Sound, Fla., Nov. 9. **Harry 'Terry' T. Walls Sr.** (BBA '67), Powder Springs, Jan. 4. **Stephen 'Steve' E. Weeks Jr.** (BBA '67), Savannah, Feb. 14. **V. Michael 'Mike' Anthony** (BBA '68), Atlanta, March 16. **Thomas 'Tom' R. Austin** (BBA '68), Lake Park, Nov. 26. **Marvin H. Foster** (BBA '68), Columbus, Nov. 29. **Lucien 'Sonny' L. James III** (BBA '68), Good Hope, Nov. 16. **Clarence C. Kerr Jr.** (BBA '68), Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 31. **Dennis W. Levinge Sr.** (BBA '68, MBA '69), Canton, Dec. 8. **J. Gordon Long** (BS '57, MBA '68, PhD '74), Dawsonville, Dec. 30. **James 'Nick' N. Shaw** (BBA '68), Augusta, Dec. 17. **Conrad O. Spratlin** (BBA '68), Athens, Nov. 16. **Ogden Tabb Sr.** (BBA '68), Marietta, Feb. 16. **John E. Wickliffe** (BBA '68), Anderson, S.C., Oct. 20. **Ronald 'David' D. Coker** (BBA '69), Canton, Oct. 18. **Robert 'Bill' W. Crowley** (BBA '69), Greenwood, S.C., March 6. **Ted G. Davis** (BBA '69), Epworth, March 30. **Frank E. Fowler** (BBA '69), Lookout Mountain, Tenn., Oct. 8. **George D. Gillespie** (BBA '69), Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 7. **Robert 'Bob' J. Hezlep** (BBA '69), Mount Dora, Fla., Oct. 6. **William 'Pepper' J. Kelly Jr.** (BBA '69), Lakemont, Feb. 3. **Duran G. McDonald** (MBA '69), Winston-Salem, N.C., Feb. 7. **Terry Ross** (BBA '69), Cohutta, March 31. **Hall M. Wilson** (BBA '69), Old Saybrook, Conn., Jan. 24.

1970s

Walter 'Wally' C. Alford (BBA '70, JD '74), Lawrenceville, Oct. 24. **Franklin 'Frank' P. Gardner** (BBA '70), Woodstock, Oct. 4. **Clifford 'Bucky' C. Kimsey III** (BBA '70), Suwanee, Dec. 29. **W. Michael Murphy** (BBA '70), Atlanta, March 7. **Medford 'Randy' R. Richter** (BBA '70), Locust Grove, Oct. 1. **Danny G. Studdard** (BBA '70), Georgetown, Texas, March 5. **Col. John C. Winkler** (MBA '70), Evans, Dec. 11. **Larry D. Burns** (BBA '71), Atlanta, Dec. 19. **Donald 'Don' O. Chapman** (BBA '71), Society Hill, S.C., Dec. 29. **Dwight D. Copeland** (BBA '71), Kennesaw, March 30. **Lt. Col. Merlin 'Mert' D. Darling** (MBA '71), Georgetown, Texas, Nov. 12. **David Edelman** (BBA '71), Dallas, Texas, Feb. 12. **Raymond H. Morris Jr.** (BBA '71), Fort Gaines, Dec. 2. **Boyd E. Nixon** (BBA '71), Stone Mountain, March 1. **John D. Ottinger** (MBA '71), Parker, Colo., Nov. 8. **William 'Bill' R. George** (PhD '72), Pine Hill, N.J., Dec. 3. **Larry M. Gill Sr.** (BBA '72), Athens, Dec. 9. **Thomas M. Horton Jr.** (BBA '72, MAcc '77), Savannah, Nov. 17. **Tommy 'Tom' B. Lee** (MBA '72), Kennesaw, Jan. 23. **Nancy K. McGuire** (BBA '72), New York, N.Y., Oct. 30. **Herbert E. Myers** (MBA '72), Augusta, March 31. **Bobby J. Quillen** (MBA '72), Porter, Texas, Feb. 14. **Robert 'Bobby' A. Strozier** (MBA '72), Evans, Nov. 22. **J. Edward 'Ed' Trice Jr.** (BBA '72), Thomaston, March 31. **Robert 'Bobby' P. Tweedell** (BBA '72), Athens, Feb. 24. **Randall 'Randy' M. Walker III** (BBA '72), Jesup, Dec. 14. **Harvey H. Westbrook** (BBA '72), Danielsville, Oct.

20. **Boyd R. Dethero** (BBA '73), Mount Pleasant, S.C., Feb. 21. **Maj. Neil E. Fleeman IV** (BBA '73), Aiken, S.C., Feb. 3. **Larry R. Golden** (BBA '73), Hinesville, Feb. 4. **Grayson W. Lambert Jr.** (BBA '73), Gainesville, Feb. 12. **William 'Gray' G. Sanders** (BBA '73), Camden, S.C., Nov. 7. **David W. Santi** (MAcc '73), Brookhaven, Dec. 23. **John D. Sharp III** (AB '69, MBA '73), Lilburn, Jan. 12. **Jack T. Vickery** (BBA '73), Elberton, Nov. 13. **Henry 'Tom' T. Brewster Jr.** (BBA '74), North Bend, Wash., Jan. 12. **Charles 'Chop' B. Evans Jr.** (BBA '74), Fort Valley, Nov. 6. **Marilyn 'Mimi' M. Johnson** (BBA '74), Griffin, March 24. **Paul 'Fred' F. Kelly** (BBA '74), Gainesville, Oct. 20. **David C. Phillips** (BBA '74), Cumming, Feb. 10. **David M. Reeves** (BBA '74), Plains, Jan. 14. **Terrell A. Smith** (BBA '75), Rock Hill, S.C., March 30. **J. Allen Seymour** (BBA '76), Watkinsville, Nov. 23. **Michael L. Smoak** (BBA '76), Kennesaw, Jan. 19. **James B. Guined** (BBA '77), Athens, March 20. **Delamar 'Del' Turner III** (BBA '77), Townsend, Feb. 25. **Travis E. Waters Jr.** (BBA '77, MBA '79), Glen Mills, Penn., Oct. 15. **James 'Jim' A. Smith** (BBA '78), Ellenwood, Jan. 11.

1980s

Lawrence 'Larry' J. Ness (BBA '80), Alpharetta, March 6. **Richard 'Rick' M. Fletcher** (BBA '81), Jackson, Feb. 20. **Kenneth E. Aupperle** (PhD '82), Akron, Ohio, Oct. 1. **Robert L. Brown** (BBA '82), Acworth, March 12. **Robert 'Bob' H. Pinckney IV** (BBA '82), Charleston, S.C., Feb. 20. **Jennifer L. Wolcott** (BBA '82), Marietta. **Donald 'Don' C. Exley Sr.** (BBA '83), Clio, March 4. **Charlie Finn** (BBA '83, MEd '91), Seward, Alaska, Jan. 27. **J. Thomas 'Tommy' Gill Jr.** (AB '83), Carnesville, Nov. 23. **Steven V. Wallace** (BBA '85), Gainesville, Fla., March 4. **Ronald C. Rutherford** (MBA '86, PhD '88), Dade City, Fla., Oct. 12. **James 'Jamey' D. Killingsworth Jr.** (BBA '87), Frisco, Texas, Nov. 6. **James W. Yawn** (AB '87), Thomaston, Feb. 8. **Dennis R. Zabiell** (BBA '87), Athens, March 29. **Monica 'Lisi' B. Gurrier** (BBA '88), Pembroke Pines, Fla., Oct. 28. **Evelyn L. Stewart** (AB '89), Athens, March 30.

1990s

Nancy E. Solovey (MMR '90), Kenosha, Wisc., Nov. 30. **Martin 'Marty' J. Shuster** (BBA '91), New Smyrna Beach, Fla., Dec. 19. **Lt. Michael G. Kratz** (BBA '92), Gallatin, Tenn., Feb. 12. **James 'Jay' T. Boswell Jr.** (BBA '93), Athens, Dec. 7. **Leigh M. Smith** (BBA '93), Grandview, Tenn., Jan. 31. **Leah M. Turner** (BBA '94), Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., Dec. 6. **Michael D. Lamb** (AB '95), Sharpsburg, Nov. 27. **Martha 'Marti' D. Lee** (BBA '95), Tybee Island, March 20. **Andrew 'Andy' C. Lipman** (BBA '96), Atlanta, Jan. 17. **Charles E. Dominique** (BBA '97), Sunrise, Fla., Oct. 23.

2000s

Shannon 'Shan' B. Wilborn (BBA '01), Flowery Branch, Dec. 7. **Bryan S. Dennis** (PhD '04), Greenville, S.C., Nov. 1. **Justin C. Beecher** (BBA '07), Toccoa, Nov. 10. **Matthew J. Shock** (BBA '07), Athens, Nov. 20.

2010s

D. Kyle Helms (BBA '11), Cochran, Dec. 3. **Eui 'Mark' C. Noh** (MBA '14), Suwanee, Dec. 30. **Gregory L. Wilhoit** (BBA '17), Athens, Jan. 24. **Austin M. Marrs** (MAcc '18), Athens, Nov. 18. **Alexander 'Alex' J. Rager** (BBA '18), Athens, Feb. 26.

2020s

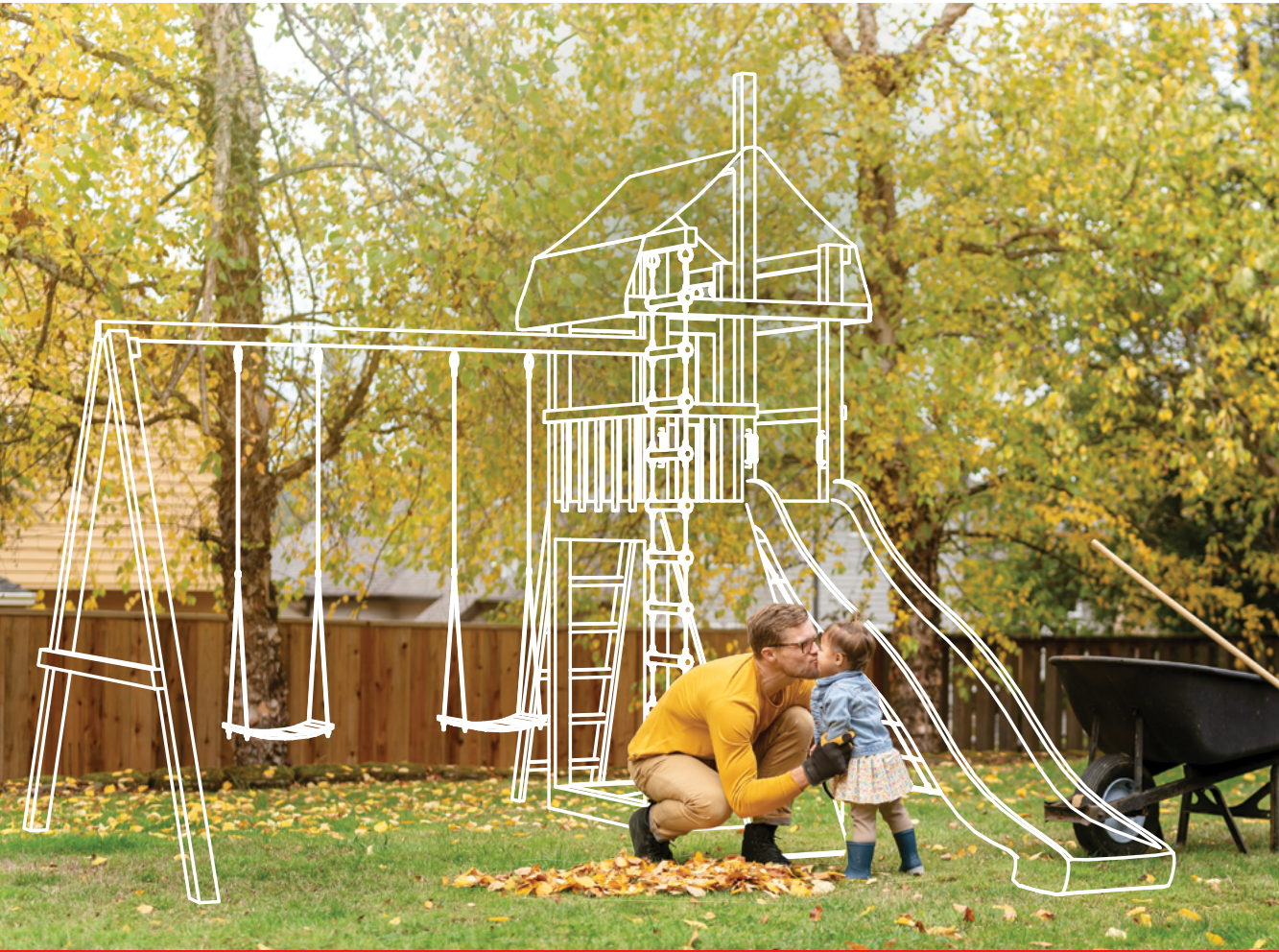
Bryan A. Jimenez (MBA '22, PharmD '24), Buford, Jan. 3. **Ryan F. Fields** (BBA '23), Milton, Dec. 12.

FACULTY

Charles Delorme Jr., Athens, Jan. 17. ■

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