

ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

2021-2022



School of Public &
International Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Samuel Aguilar (BS '13, MPA '15) joined the team at Corners Outreach as Workforce Development Director.

Olivia Ammons (AB '21, MPA '21) started her role as Assistant to the City Manager of Johns Creek.



Thomas Arrowood III (AB '13) and his wife welcomed their first child, a son, in October 2020.

Raymond Barrett (BA '11) joined the City of Chicago as the Director of Planning, Research and Development.



Savannah Blalock (AB '16) continued in her position as a Foreign Affairs Specialist at the National Nuclear Security Administration, a role she began in November 2019.

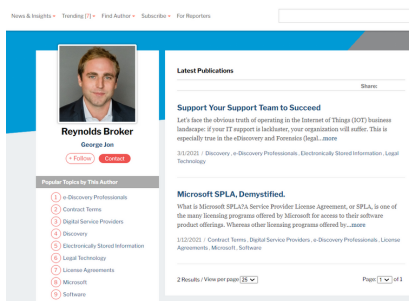


James Borders (PhD '11) accepted a position with The MITRE Corporation supporting US Space Command's intelligence directorate. His role will be to help US Space Command as they stand up their ability to oversee joint military operations in space, particularly with regard to understanding the growing global threats to the US use of space.

Don Bower (PhD '89) was the department head for the UGA Department of Human Development & Family Science. In his retirement, he acts as a consultant but is mostly enjoying traveling, hobbies, and a new grandson in Savannah.



Wendell Broadwell (PhD '86) will be retiring this year after 41 years of teaching at various colleges and universities. He has most recently taught at Georgia State University.



William Broker (AB '14) was promoted to Chief of Staff of growing eDiscovery Specialist & Consulting Firm based in Chicago, IL. At 29, he is the youngest C-Suite Executive in the company's 15-plus year history. Several of his thought leadership articles have also been published by leading legal industry/eDiscovery Technology outlets.



Trish Butcher (AB '10) started her own estate planning law firm in Athens, called the Arch Legacy Firm. She specializes in customized and personal estate plans for families and professionals, and is the only certified Personal Family Lawyer in Athens.



Stephanie Cannon (AB '21) started her first semester at Georgetown University's Security Studies Program in September 2021. She is working toward earning her MA in Security Studies with a concentration in Technology and Security and a certificate in Eurasian, Russian, and Eastern European Studies. She is also a graduate assistant at the university's Graduate Career Center.

[Craig Cardella \(MPA '76\)](#) is the Founder and CEO of Property Tax Eagle, the leading property tax advising firm for affordable housing in Georgia.

[Heather Cavanagh \(AB '98\)](#) just started her fourteenth year of teaching as a 6th grade teacher in the Los Altos School District.



[Michael Chidester, P.C. \(AB '82, JD '85\)](#) was elected Mayor of the City of Byron, and took office on January 1, 2020.



[Carey Clinton \(AB '03\)](#) and his wife, Christin McConnell, welcomed their daughters Rose (2018) and Lucy (2020). Most recently, in 2021, Carey was promoted to Lead Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton.



[Caitlyn Cooper \(AB '07\)](#) got engaged to [Andrew Dill \(AB '07\)](#) on the "G" in Sanford Stadium in front of family and friends in March 2021. Caitlyn and Andrew were married in November 2021 and have moved to Watkinsville. Caitlyn is currently the Director of Business Development for the U.S. Public Sector Division at NetApp.



[Madison Cooper \(BA '19\)](#) married SPIA alumnus, [Alan Rosa \(AB '19\)](#), at the UGA Chapel on January 15, 2022. She is currently a fundraising consultant for War Room Strategies.



[Clayton Cox \(AB '10\)](#) left the Democratic National Committee as National Finance Director to become Vice President of Federal Affairs at McGuireWoods Consulting.



[Jonathan Dalrymple \(BA '04\)](#) founded Transblue New Orleans, a world-class general contractor in March of 2021. He also started Outlaw Club and Ranch, with his first location in the metro New Orleans area. He plans to expand both businesses in 2022 to include a second location in Dallas, Texas.



[Thomas Deen \(MA '20\)](#) was awarded prestigious summer associate fellowship at RAND Corporation. He was also invited to continue research and work at the corporation after completion of the fellowship.



On March 26, 2021, [Hadley Dreibelbis \(AB '14, AB '14\)](#) got engaged to fellow SPIA alumnus, [Ryan Diffley \(AB '14\)](#), in Washington, D.C. Additionally, she graduated magna cum laude from Duke Law School in May 2021, and is an incoming law clerk at Hogan Lovells.

[Charlie Gatlin \(AB '71, MPA '73\)](#) retired after 42 years of serving the development authorities of Albany, Athens, Rome, Macon, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Electric Cities of Georgia.

[Tucker Green \(AB '20\)](#) was nominated as a Top Rising Lobbyist by James Magazine. He is also the President of Tucker Green & Associates, Inc.

[Erin Greenberg \(MPA '17\)](#) was recently promoted to a Budget Analyst III with Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. This role handles the most complex agencies within state government. The role also provides training and mentorship opportunities to guide newer analysts. Erin is excited to continue growing in her skills as a budget analyst and is looking forward to helping other analysts gain the same experience she has.

[Douglas Harden \(AB '05\)](#) is currently a Management Analyst at the United States Department of Energy Headquarters, Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. His daughter turned 4 on January 31, 2022 and his son turned 2 on October 29, 2021. His wife was also named partner at her law firm, Blank Rome.



[Patricia Harris \(BA '87\)](#) retired from the Army after 28 years of active duty service as a Judge Advocate (Army Lawyer) in June 2020 and started her new position as General Counsel for Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. in May 2021.



Dr. Brett James (AB '95) is a School Improvement Specialist at North Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (NGRESA). He was recently awarded the "Certified School Improvement Specialist" (CSIS) designation by The Institute for Performance Improvement, L3C (TIFPI).

Beverly Johnson (MPA '12) was promoted to Senior Public Service Associate at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) on July 1, 2021. She is also celebrating her 10th work anniversary with CVIOG.

James Joines (MPA '71) is beginning his 20th year as Mayor of the City of Winston Salem. He was also named by the Winston Salem Journal as one of the 50 individuals who impacted the growth and development of the city during its first 100 years.

Amy Jones (AB '97) was promoted to Detective Lieutenant within the Rock Hill Police Department in 2021.

Dr. Fabrice Julien (AB '13) is now an Assistant Professor of Health and Wellness at The University of North Carolina Asheville. He recently married Dr. Carissa Lau in a private ceremony in Birmingham, AL.

Maya Kashapov (BA '20) has been accepted as a candidate for the degree of M.A. in Climate & Society at Columbia University's new Climate School in its inaugural class. It will be the first school globally focused on climate, Earth, and society, as the university recognizes the "immense and urgent challenges" associated with addressing the great threat that the climate crisis poses for humanity. Her focus will be in advocacy, policy, and diplomacy in the context of carbon removal technology. Specifically, she will be working to scale carbon-neutral fuels synthesized from the air.

Annie Kattos (BA '19) was promoted after 3 months of working at her firm to Immigration Paralegal Assistant at Fisher Phillips LLP. She began her career as a document clerk.



Megan Kelley (AB '11) accepted a position in September of 2020 as the Associate Chief Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security.

Ronnie Kurtz (AB '15, MPA '15) was named Director of Planning and Community Development with the City of Grovetown.

Kelby Lamar (AB '11) completed his doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama in May 2021. He began working at Auburn University as the Assistant Director of Student Involvement in September 2021.

David Manley III (AB '75) retired as member of an Atlanta law firm being a past advisory member of the Law Revision Committee, and past member of the Legislation Committee, of the Georgia Bar, a former local bar association president and director, a former member of the Law-related Education Consortium of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, a former faculty member of the Georgia Institute of Continuing Legal Education, a former Special Assistant Attorney General, and who was elected to Who's Who In American Law.

Eva Margolies (MPA '81) retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she was the Associate Director for Program Planning and Policy at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, STD, TB and Viral Hepatitis Prevention.

Nancy Martin (AB '74, MPA '76) has recently retired from her role as a Director of Personnel & Risk Management. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Cherokee Water & Sewer Authority. Nancy is also a cancer survivor, part-time babysitter of her 1-year old granddaughter, and a proud grandmother of her two grandsons in the United States Air Force.



Hayden McRee (AB '16, JD '19) opened her own law firm, McRee Law, LLC in March 2021, in her hometown of Commerce, Georgia. She practices in the areas of real estate, estate planning, probate, and corporate formation.

[Ryan Miller \(MPA '21\)](#) began the J.D. program at Harvard Law School in the fall of 2021.

[Jeri Milstead \(PhD '93\)](#) is currently self-employed and acts as a Senior Nurse Consultant. She was inducted into the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame in October 2020. This is the most prestigious honor awarded by ANA for sustained impact to the profession of nursing. Her PhD in Political Science (comparative politics and public policy) laid the foundation for writing a textbook for nurses on the process of making public policy. The book, *Milstead's Policy and Policy A Nurse's Guide*, 7th ed. (edited by Nancy Short), is sold in 22 countries and has become a staple in graduate nursing education (MS, DNP, PhD).

[Noah Mink \(AB '08\)](#) recently joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., as a trial attorney for the Office of Program Enforcement within the Office of General Counsel.

[Sarah Mohr \(AB '06\)](#) joined Amazon Web Services as an associate corporate counsel in August after nine years with the legal department at Georgia-Pacific.

[Brianna Morris \(AB '11\)](#) is currently the Executive Director of Maze Creative. The organization won the Gold Stevie® Award at the 2021 International Business Awards. It was named the winner of the Gold Stevie® Award in the Marketing Campaign of the Year – Travel/ Tourism/ Destination category.



[Macey Myers \(BA '21\)](#) accepted her first post-grad job working for Arabella Advisors as a Program Assistant on the Managed Organizations team out of their Washington, D.C. office. Arabella is a Certified B Corporation that provides strategic guidance for effective philanthropy. Arabella represents hundreds of clients and has helped influence more than \$100 billion in assets. Macey is thrilled to move to D.C. and to make an impact through her work!

[Isaiah O'Rear \(MA '07\)](#) began his role as a statistician at the National Council of Urban Indian Health.

[Mario Ponsell \(AB '08\)](#) started with Amazon Logistics in January 2021 as a Sort Operations Manager and was promoted in August 2021 to a Site Leader in Amazon Ultra Fast Fresh.

Based on his CNN reporting about Covid-19 long haulers and his personal experiences as a patient and advocate around post-viral syndromes, [Ryan Prior \(AB '12\)](#) received a book deal to write a full-length work about the topic. The book is to be published by Post Hill Press and distributed by Simon & Schuster this summer.



[Doug Rankin \(AB '87\)](#) is the owner of Apexx Fitness LLC, a child development center that uses the tools of martial arts, fitness, after school and summer camp to change lives in a positive way. There are currently 2 full time locations for Apexx. He also owns Splinters Axe House located in Warner Robins, GA. He is a 6th Degree Black belt in Taekwondo, a 2x #1 Best Selling author, speaker, founder of the Apogee Summit and husband and father.

[Tyler Reinagel \(MPA '09, PhD '13\)](#) accepted his newly-established role of Associate Vice President of Economic Development at Kennesaw State University.



[Cecile Riker \(BA '13, MPA '16\)](#) celebrated her 1 year anniversary in Athens in April 2021. She is currently the Program Education Specialist for the Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program.

[Chris Rodriguez \(MPA '09\)](#) was recently named to the Board of Directors for Colleges That Change Lives, a consortium of colleges and universities focused on promoting student fit and individualized attention during the undergraduate process. He is currently the Associate Director of College Counseling at The Lovett School.

Jacqueline Roeder (BA '17) is currently living in Washington, D.C. and is enrolled full-time at Johns Hopkins SAIS to receive her MA in International Economics and Strategic Studies. She is also working as an International Trade Assistant with the United States Department of Commerce through the Pathways Internship program.

Sarah Scherer (AB '20) founded her own business, Scherer Photography, Inc., which provides Matterport 3D Tours for real estate agents. She also specializes in family portraits, including baby and maternity photographs.



Scott Sikes (AB '82) was reappointed to a new term on the UGA Board of Visitors. He is currently the Principal and Partner at Columns Fundraising LLC, and has recently solo bicycle camped (bikepacked) for one week across the State of Missouri.



Following graduation and completing her final semester in Washington, D.C. with the UGA Washington Semester Program, Isabella Smart (BA '20) accepted a position with Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis. In the time since, she has been able to contribute to the security of our homeland and produce finished intelligence for a variety of stakeholders.



Kathryn Smith (AB '12) founded A Way Abroad, a community of women dreaming of a life abroad. Based on a passion of international affairs started at UGA and cemented into place by her Peace Corps service, Kathryn has been living around the world for the past 8 years. Using her own experience and knowledge and that of other expats, she created A Way Abroad to show other women how they can build a fulfilling life abroad. (www.findawayabroad.com)



In 2020, [Gabe Sterling \(BA '01\)](#) directed the rollout of the statewide voting system in Georgia and addressed the President of the United States and spreading disinformation. In October 2021, he got married.



[John Stout \(MPA '10\)](#) was promoted to lead the Base Operations contract at Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA. He manages a team of approximately 150 people.

[Monica Vega Herrera \(AB '18\)](#) started her job as a foreign service officer with the Department of State. Her first diplomatic tour began in November 2021, where she was stationed in Bogota, Colombia.

[Scott Virgil \(MA '08\)](#) completed his two year assignment at the United States Military Academy, serving as the Director for the Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic. He has recently begun an Army War College Fellowship at Columbia University.



[Danielle Williams-Wilburn \(BA '16, MA '18\)](#) recently moved from Washington, D.C. to Huntsville, Alabama to help expand the company, Noblis, while also working for the National Technical Nuclear Forensics Center at Department of Homeland Security's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.



[Andrew Wills \(AB '11\)](#) is now the Director of Federal Affairs for Invenergy, the country's largest private clean energy company. In this role, he leads all federal affairs for Invenergy, including advocacy in both chambers of Congress, the White House and associated agencies, and independent agencies. He also manages Invenergy's PAC and leads political strategy for the company.

[Bill Zachmann \(AB '02\)](#) has been the office manager for the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia since its inception in the fall of 2003.