



Cumberland

UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-2024

Executive Team



Troy Simpson '01

Past President of Alumni Association and Board of Directors

Troy Simpson graduated from Cumberland University in 2001 with a Master of Science degree in Organization and Human Relations Management while working full-time as an administrator of training and development. He spends his time working in a profession and volunteering with organizations that equip individuals and teams by celebrating strengths and pursuing their full potential. Troy has worked in a variety of human resources roles within in the retail, healthcare and supply chain industries and served as speaker faculty and panelist at multiple industry and academic conferences. Past organizations where he has served as a volunteer include multiple board roles at congregations within the United Methodist Church and as assistant scoutmaster with Scouts BSA. Troy and his wife Whitney have one son, Drew.



Brandi Coates '17

President of Alumni Association and Board of Directors

Brandi Coates is a Nashville native and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art and Design from Cumberland University in 2017. While at CU Brandi was an intern at the Frist Art Museum. Following graduation she accepted a full time position at the Museum. In April 2021, Brandi graduated from Tennessee State University with her Masters of Education degree in Instructional Leadership with a concentration in Career and Technical Education. In August 2022, she began a new chapter in her professional work at the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville, TN. She is currently the Education Programs Manager, where she plans and implements public programming that is centered around K-12 students, educators and post secondary audiences that focuses on the history and culture of African Americans and music. As she continues to grow in her profession, Brandi hopes to gain more partnerships and create opportunities that will develop pipelines for diverse students who have an interest in arts education and museum careers. Brandi enjoys reading, drawing, painting and listening to music in spare time.

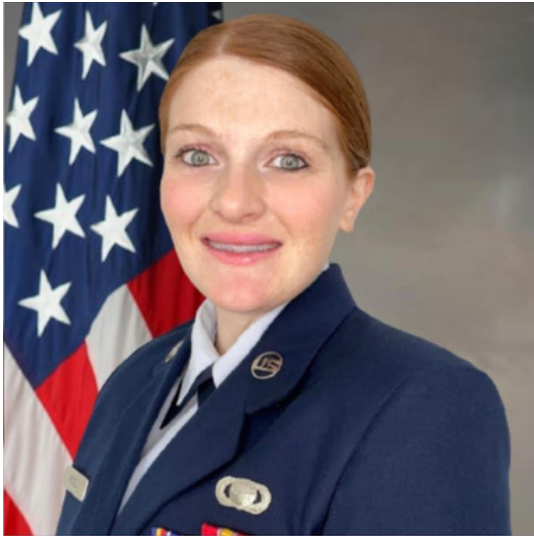


Gena Shearon '09

Vice President of Alumni Association and Board of Directors

Gena Shearon was born in Charleston, SC a long time ago. Her favorite place where she lived is Rota, Spain. She is married to Kevin Shearon. Gena graduated in 2009 with her Bachelor of Business. Her career started early in HR working for the VP of a bank in Charleston SC until moving to Lebanon with her family in 1992. Gena has two sons: Nicholas Dillard and Justin Dillard, 2020 Cumberland University Graduate. As a hobby and secondary work for her retirement plan, Gena works for International Student Exchange placing HS students in US homes from all over the world sharing family culture. She has hosted 12 of her own, and travels back and forth to Europe on occasion. She enjoys travel and her grandchildren - all bonus and blended grandchildren which total 15 and growing.

Executive Team



Kelsey Wezel '19

Secretary of Alumni Association and Board of Directors

Kelsey Wezel is a 2019 graduate of Cumberland University with a B.S. in Sport Management. She was also part of the CU women's bowling team. Following graduation, she began her journey in the United States Air Force Reserves where she is currently a Staff Sergeant, Geospatial Intelligence Analyst & Early Intelligence Acquisitions Specialist, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. In the Spring of 2021, she graduated with a M.S. in Sport Recreation & Administration. Currently, she is the Director of GIS Operation at iamGIS Group, where she enjoys managing the day-to-day operations of her team of GIS specialists, supporting customer projects, and assuring each customer is provided the best experience possible with their iamGIS asset management software.



Jake Collier '15

Treasurer of Alumni Association and Board of Directors

Mr. Jake Collier, a Lynden, Washington native, graduated from Cumberland in 2015 with his Bachelor of Science and a National Championship with the baseball team. Jake is a team builder and an entrepreneur. While building businesses are a passion, Jake is a family man, follower of Jesus, outdoor enthusiast, and a mentor for young adults. During his time at Cumberland University, he embraced the community that CU fostered and values the relationships which have been built along the way.

Directors-at-Large



Kim Anderson '81

Kim (Adcock) Anderson is from Old Hickory, Tennessee and a first generation college graduate from Cumberland College in 1981. She continued her education at Austin Peay University with a Bachelor in Business Administration in 1983. After spending 17 years in the investment business, Kim began her second career in real estate in 2010. She is married to Arthur Anderson and they live in Nashville. They have 2 children, Alexa Clare and Anson.



Amanda Arseneau '99 '01

Amanda Cothron Arseneau is a two-time graduate of Cumberland University, earning her Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting and Computer Information Systems in 1999 and her Master of Business Administration in 2001. She was named as one of the 1999 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award Recipients and was featured in the organization's magazine publication in 2022. While at CU, Amanda served as President of the Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity and Secretary/Treasurer to the Fine Arts Alliance of CU Students. She was a member of several different honors societies and social groups, including the Cumberland Chorale and University Singers where she performed lead roles in Cinderella, Camelot, Guys and Dolls, et al. After graduation, Amanda honed her professional skills by working for several illustrious organizations. She is currently self-employed, following her professional career path and continuing to improve her knowledge and applicable skills daily. Amanda enjoys spending her free time with her husband, Matt, and two dogs, Freyja and Phoebe at their Gallatin home.



Earl Berry '96 '01

Earl Berry, Jr a Grenada, MS native graduated form Grenada High School in 92' and attended Cumberland University on a football scholarship. He is a two time graduate of Cumberland University. Earning a bachelors of Science degree in Social Science with a concentration in Criminal Justice. While at Cumberland, Earl was elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, for his outstanding merit and accomplishments as a student at the university. He is a founding member of Phi Delta Delta chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. at CU, and has been the advisor for the past 27 years. In 2001, he received his masters in Organizational Science and Human Relations Management. For the past 27 years, Earl has worked closely with different community organizations, sitting on the board of the City of Hope and working closely with the Wilson County Civic League. In 2000, Earl became a member of Wilson County juvenile court, where he coordinated intakes, preparing families for juvenile court. In 2002 to 2013, Earl worked as a counselor for Smith, Lovejoy and Associates and Life changes and progress. Currently, Earl is a football coach at Lebanon, HS and the President of Rho Kappa Kappa graduate chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. As well as, the Director and President of the Wilson County Omega Project that provides mentoring, social activities, and entertainment for the youth of Wilson County. He enjoys spending time with his son Clarence, Daughter Que'Asia, and youngest son Dallas, as well as family and friends.

Directors-at-Large



Christie Durham '15

Christie Durham is a 2015 graduate of the Cumberland University Nursing Program. Christie has been a nurse for the past 15 years. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse, and decided to finish her nursing degree at Cumberland University. She has two daughters, Sierra Speck age 27, Autumn Speck age 24, and one grandson, Colton Speck age 7. She currently works at Indian Lake Surgery Center as a Registered Nurse OR Circulator.



Melvin Elias '22

Melvin Adonay Elias grew up in Cabot, AR, and graduated from Tennessee Tech University with his Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2010. In 2022 he graduated from Cumberland University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. While at Cumberland University, he served as the Vice President of the Student Nurses Association and as a Gamma Beta Phi Society member. As part of his nursing student development, he was chosen as a VALOR Student for a Summer residency program at the Nashville VA. He completed 400 hours and developed clinical skills in the intensive care unit. After graduating, Melvin Adonay accepted a job offer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he currently serves as a Registered Nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit. He enjoys spending time with his family, friends, and dog in his free time. He likes to go hiking, kayaking, and travel.



Jeremy Goodman '14

Mr. Jeremy Goodman earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from Cumberland University in 2014. As a student, he was a member of the golf team, founding member of the Military Veteran Organization, and a member of Gamma Beta Phi. He is married to Genesis Nadine Goodman and they have a beautiful daughter named Gently Nadine! As residents of Wilson County, they own multiple businesses, attend Curd Road Church of Christ, and love to spend time in their community. Fun Facts - They love to travel, play golf, and scuba dive!

Directors-at-Large



Callie Heatherly '12

Callie Heatherly, a Mt. Juliet, TN native, is a 2012 graduate of Cumberland University. Callie is a sales manager for A-Z Office Resource and West Business Interiors. She also owns Callie Elys Events, a full service event planning business. Callie is a CASA advocate and SOAR mentor and enjoys traveling in her spare time.



Chelsea Hensley '13 '16

Chelsea Hardin Hensley is a Cumberland alumna from 2013 and 2016. After her undergraduate degrees, she worked for the Office of Admissions and received her Masters in Public Service Management. After leaving Cumberland, she continued her career in the nonprofit sector working within nonprofit management and social justice organizations. Chelsea is a proud Lebanon native, who still resides in town with her husband, Chris and dog, Libby. She believes Cumberland is a vital resource in the community and student's lives and is excited to serve on the CUAA.



Kristina Hibdon '22

Kristina is a Watertown High School graduate who obtained her Bachelor Degree in Chemistry from Sweet Briar College in Virginia. She currently owns a family insurance agency with my father and finds being a small business owner rewarding and challenging. Kristina and her husband of over 20 years have raised our three daughters in Wilson County with our youngest currently attending Cumberland University. She has been active with Wilson County CASA for over 10 years and stay very active in state politics.

Directors-at-Large



Nathan Johnson '99

Nathan Johnson, class of 1999. Nathan is the Director of Athletic Training for Hughston Clinic Orthopaedics in Tennessee. Through the Hughston Clinic Orthopaedics athletic training outreach program he serves as the athletic trainer for Friendship Christian School in Lebanon, TN. Nathan has served the Wilson County community as an athletic trainer for 22 years. Nathan is a native of DeKalb County, TN. He resides in Lebanon with his wife Danna (Armour) Johnson (CU Class of 1997) and their two sons Michael and Alex.



Roy Jones '02

Roy L. Jones, a Nashville native, graduated from Cumberland University in 2002 with a Master of Science degree in Public Service Management. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Tennessee Technology University in 1972 and his Law Degree from the Nashville School of Law in 1986. Mr. Jones has over 45 years of experience in the accounting field, working as a certified public accountant for 24 years in public and private industry before finishing his career in government services. Mr. Jones recently retired after twenty-four years as an assistant director in one of the major departments in the Metropolitan Government of Nashville/Davidson County where he handled all accounting and financial functions, budgets, purchasing, human resource management, and council liaison for his department. He serves as a board director for four non-profit organizations and a adjunct professor for the MSP program at Cumberland. He currently operates his own tax and accounting business in Hendersonville, TN where he and his wife, Peggy, reside. They have four children and twelve grandchildren.



Pat Lawson '97 '99

Pat a two time graduate of Cumberland University earning his Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters of Arts in Education. He is the Regional Affiliates and Shared Services Coordinator for The Community Foundation's ChildcareTennessee. Before joining The Community Foundation Pat worked in education for 20 years. During his career, he served as Athletic Director for Cumberland University and Father Ryan High School. Pat also brings nonprofit experience to his role, having served as Executive Director of Sherry's Run, a nonprofit cancer support ministry that supports patients and their families while they battle the disease. He holds a Master's Degree in Education from Cumberland University. Outside of The Foundation, Pat enjoys spending time with his wife, Sarah, son Will and Rufus, their English bulldog. An avid outdoorsman and Titans fan, he also enjoys coaching youth baseball and basketball.

Directors-at-Large



Kenny Sallis '11

Kenny Sallis, a Lebanon, TN native, graduated from Lebanon High School in 2005 and attended Cumberland University on a football scholarship. He graduated from CU in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Special Education degree and in 2012, with a Masters in Sport Science and Exercise Pedagogy. Kenny served as a high school special education teacher and football coach for six years and began a career in real estate. In 2018, Kenny was named the Eastern Middle Tennessee Association of Realtors Rookie of the Year as well as receiving the Diamond Award in 2018-2021 and Sapphire Award in 2022. He was featured in Nashville Real Producers Magazine as their Rising Star in March of 2020. Kenny and his wife, the former Kellie O'Connell, were married in 2013 and are Realtors, avid real estate investors, and the owners of Sallis Realty Group, Hometown Team Property Management and Hometown Reno & Repair all in Lebanon. They have three children Madison, Emmy Grace and Jackson.



Brandon Taylor '21

Brandon Taylor graduated from Cumberland University in 2021. While at Cumberland he majored in Exercise and Sports Science with an emphasis in Human & Health Performance. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated at CU and has held a few leadership positions within the fraternity. He was a member of the inaugural CU Influencer Program here at the university in 2019. Brandon is currently an Enrollment Specialist in the Office of Admissions. He dedicates his time by serving his community by putting together summer events for the local youth through the non-profit organization, the Wilson County Omega Project. He enjoys spending time with his son, friends, and working out on a daily basis. He takes pride in his health as well as helping others become the best version of themselves through his personal training certification through ISSA (International Sports Sciences Association).



Remington Tyler '18

Remington Tyler is a 2018 graduate of Cumberland University. During his time at CU he played football and served as a RA and SRA. After graduation he began working at Hood Container in sales and have been with the company since. Mid-way through my stay at Cumberland, I met my wife Tatum Tyler. We have been married since June 2018 and have been blessed with 2 children, Oaklyn and Rhett.

Directors-at-Large



Josh Woodward '21

Josh Woodward graduated from Cumberland University with a Bachelors of Science in Sports Management in 2021. While Josh attended Cumberland University he was heavily involved in many parts of the school including Student Government Association (Commuter Representative, Treasurer, VP), Kappa Sigma Fraternity (Treasurer), Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society (President). Josh resides in Middle Tennessee and is eager to give back to his alma mater.