Donna Abood is one of the most trusted and highly recognized names in South Florida real estate. She serves as the principal and managing director of the Miami office of Avison Young, a global commercial real estate firm. She is responsible for the client servicing and revenue of the leasing division. Abood oversees the leasing division’s business development of institutional and local investor clients and tenant representation services, including retail, industrial and office.

During her 34-year career, Abood has represented well over 50 million square feet of office buildings on behalf of local and institutional ownerships. Additionally, she has completed hundreds of transactions on behalf of the tenants she has represented.

Previously, Abood served as chairman and founding partner of Colliers International South Florida, formed in 2002. Before that, she was the principal owner of Abood & Associates, Inc. Created in 1989, the company grew to be the largest privately-held, locally-based commercial real estate firm in Miami-Dade County.

Abood was born and raised in St. Petersburg and graduated from Florida State University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts in marketing and management. She was inducted into the Florida State University College of Business Hall of Fame in 2013.

Abood served as the past chairman of the 2014-2015 board of The Beacon Council, and she currently serves on the board of directors of The Beacon Council, Miracle Theatre, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Real Estate Institute and College of Business at Florida State University. Abood is also a foundation member of Baptist Health.

She is the extremely proud mother of her daughter Kristyn.
Dr. Ruth Ruggles Akers taught at Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach Community College. She served as an artist-in-residence at the Palm Beach County School of the Arts (now the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts). Dr. Akers received a Ph.D. in historical musicology from FSU, where she was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi. She received her Master of Music degree in piano performance from Indiana University, where she was an associate instructor and inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, a national music honor society.

Dr. Akers has performed as a pianist in many venues, presented lecture recitals and adjudicated at numerous state conventions. She served seven years on the FSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors and ten years on the boards of Opening Nights at FSU and the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. She has also been on the Community Foundation of North Florida, Live the Life and The Artist Series boards, and is a Women for FSU member and FSU University Musical Associates lifetime member.

Married for forty-six years, Ruth and her husband, Les, both served on the Raise the Torch: The Campaign for Florida State National Campaign Committee, established a fund for entrepreneurial activity in music, an Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship, endowed scholarships in both soccer and football and are members of the Seminole Boosters Micco Society. The Akers have three children, five grandchildren and one crazy beagle. They enjoy Wildwood Church, Seminole sports and the abundance of FSU’s artistic offerings.
Florence Helen Ashby retired in 2013 from Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, as a professor emeritus in the department of mathematics. Ashby was the head of the statistics program and taught at the college for 44 years, earning, among many other honors, the Silver Teaching Medallion. She also worked in the IBM Scientific Division of the Goddard Space Flight Center.

Ashby participated in the founding of the Sarasota and Washington, D.C. FSU Alumni Association Seminole Clubs. She still holds membership #1 in the Washington club.

During her time at FSU, Ashby was a member of the Marching Chiefs, vice president of the College of Music’s sophomore council, president of Kappa Alpha Theta, founding president of Tau Beta Sigma, and a member of Garnet Key Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Iota and Mortar Board.

Ashby is a previous two-term member of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees, and she and her late husband Laird Anderson (’58, B.S., International Affairs), established a lectureship within the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. Ashby also helped fund the display case at the Ruby Diamond Concert Hall and the Commission of Symphonic Music for the College of Music. She is a director of the Marching Chiefs Alumni, a member of Women for FSU and a recipient of FSU’s Torch Award.

Ashby is a 1957 graduate of Florida State, with a Bachelor of Arts in music education. She received a degree in mathematics from Columbia University and a Master of Mathematics and Master of Statistics from Purdue University. She also took graduate courses from IBM in mathematics and computing.
Thomas “Tom” Bartelmo is president and chief executive officer of the Kislak Organization headquartered in Miami, Florida. Established in 1906, Kislak’s primary business lines are multifamily and commercial real estate ownership, asset management and brokerage and tax lien certificate investment funds. Bartelmo joined Kislak in 1995 and has completed more than $2 billion of investments, transactions and financings.

He is also CEO of the Kislak Family Foundation and serves on the Smithsonian Institute’s National Air and Space Museum Board. Bartelmo is a member of the James Madison Council, a private-sector advisory group whose mission is to support and promote the Library of Congress.

Bartelmo earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting from Florida State University and is on the FSU Foundation and the FSU Real Estate Foundation boards. He also serves on the University of Miami Herbert Business School Real Estate Advisory Board, is on the board of the South Florida Wildlife Center and is a member of the Chief Executives Organization and the Young Presidents' Organization.
Yvonne T. Brown began her professional career with the Internal Revenue Service, where she became its first female tax collector and retired as a group manager. Shortly after, Brown started her private tax consulting firm, representing individuals and corporations that owed the IRS money. After selling her tax practice, she became CFO for a commercial real estate firm in South Florida and retired in 2011.

While living in South Florida, Brown served two terms on the Seminole Boosters Board of Directors and began her first 10-year term on the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Although Brown attended the University of Florida, she quickly became an ardent FSU supporter when she married a Seminole in 1968. Together, they started as members of the then newly-created Presidents Club and are now part of the James D. Westcott Legacy Society, Vires, Artes, Mores society and have maintained Seminole Boosters Golden Chief status since 1977.

When Brown's husband retired in 2012, they moved to Tallahassee. Since that time, Brown has become a member of FSU's National Campaign Committee, Planned Giving Council, Undergraduate Studies Development Council, Seminole Boosters Board of Directors and the Libraries Advancement Board. In the Tallahassee community, she has served on the TMH Foundation Board of Trustees, CHOOSE Tallahassee Board of Directors and the Capital Medical Society Foundation Board of Directors. She is a volunteer at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and a graduate of Tallahassee Lifelong Learning Leaders Class 8.

Brown is a lifetime member of the FSU Alumni Association, was inducted into the FSU Circle of Gold in 2016 and was awarded the first FSU Honorary Alumni Award by President Thrasher in 2017.

She is married to Judge Stephen Brown, an adjunct professor in the FSU College of Law.
H. Michael Bush

Ex Officio
Designee
The John and Mable Ringling
Museum of Art Board of Directors

Investment

Sarasota, Fla.

H. Michael Bush is the president/owner of Home Resource, Inc., located in Sarasota, Florida. He and his wife, Kathy, are design and home furnishings industry professionals headquartered on Central Avenue. Situated within the boundaries of the city’s historic Rosemary District, the area represents Sarasota's Design District with its collection of architects, interior designers, home builders, cabinet makers and showrooms devoted to flooring, home entertainment, furniture and decorative accessories. Since 1995, Home Resource has been the place in southwest Florida to shop for contemporary and licensed modern furniture. Over the last several years, the Home Resource showroom has also been converted into a fringe theatre where live performances have been conducted. Home Resource has been Bush's most recent business turnaround, where he has taken an essentially bankrupt company and successfully led it back to profitability and success.

Bush has held senior executive positions in Europe and the United States for Exxon Mobil, Domino's Pizza, Red Hot Concepts (Chili's) and other smaller publicly traded companies. His specialty is start-up and turnaround environments. In addition, he was a key executive in the creation of Mobil Chemical's Global Petrochemical Operations. Bush is a licensed CPA. He has served on the boards of the Sarasota Ballet, Sarasota Contemporary Dance, West Coast Black Theatre Troupe, Theatre Odyssey, SaraSolo, Sarasota Season of Sculpture and the Sarasota Architectural Foundation, in addition to serving a 14-year term as the president of the Rosemary District.
Keith D. Carr

Audit
Donor Stewardship
Executive

Orlando, Fla.

Keith D. Carr founded Forefront Consulting LLC in 2001 and is currently the company’s managing principal. Forefront is a Florida-based consulting, research and advisory firm that provides professional business services, including compliance, oversight and financial and non-financial auditing services to government, non-profit and private sector clients. Forefront also creates technology-enabled learning development systems for its clients.

Carr also founded and operates Identity Theft Solutions Corporation, a privacy protection firm specializing in technology-enabled identity theft prevention and resolution products and services for consumers and financial, health care and educational institutions.

Before becoming an entrepreneur, Carr worked nearly ten years in local and state government agencies and with the Florida Legislature in criminal and juvenile justice, probation and organizational management, operations, research and policy development.

Carr was an adjunct professor for nearly four years at the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and currently serves on its board. He has been a guest speaker at numerous national conferences and meetings and the annual FSU Ring Ceremony. He is a lifetime member and past vice president of the Florida State University Alumni Association and past president of the FSU Black Alumni Association. Carr is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was in the Marching Chiefs. He resides in Orlando, Fla., with his wife, Nutoshia, and daughter Honnah.
Dr. Eric Chicken joined the faculty of Florida State University in 2002 as a professor of statistics. Primarily in function estimation and statistical process control, his research is broadly interdisciplinary, with applications and collaborations in engineering, medicine, hydrology, education and operations research. Chicken’s research has been funded by the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Florida Geological Survey. He is a fellow of the Institute for Defense Analyses and an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association, the primary professional association for statisticians. Chicken has been awarded two Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Fellowships.

Chicken served as the advisor for 11 doctoral students in statistics between 2009 and 2018 and is currently supervising five doctoral candidates. He has also guided two undergraduate honors theses in statistics and been a part of numerous graduate student committees across campus. In 2016, he received the Outstanding Graduate Mentor award.

Chicken is active in faculty governance, leadership and service at FSU and elsewhere. He has been a faculty senator since 2007, served on the university’s Graduate Policy Committee for three years, the Undergraduate Policy Committee since 2012 (the last five years as its chair), the Senate Steering Committee since 2016 and performs regular and ongoing service for his department. Beyond FSU, he has served as the Florida chapter of the American Statistical Association president, organized conferences related to his research and remains active in editorial and review duties with journals and grant organizations in his research area.

Chicken earned his Bachelor of Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, his master’s in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and his doctorate in statistics from Purdue University. Before his academic career, he was a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. His principal assignment was in Space Command with satellite engineer as his primary duty. He left the service in 1996 at the rank of captain.
William E. Coen was a financial advisor and senior vice president working on Marco Island and in Collier County. He worked for AG Edwards (1983-2007) until Wachovia Securities purchased it in 2007. Coen then worked for Morgan Stanley (2007-2014), also on Marco Island. In 1988, he earned his Certified Financial Planner license, which he still holds as he does pro bono work. Coen’s clientele was an assortment of people from the southwest Florida area dominated by wealthy retirees from northern states.

Coen has been involved with the Southwest Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America. From 2006–2007, Coen served as council president. The Southwest Florida Council, headquartered in Ft. Myers, has an endowment of $7 million and a budget of $1.5 million. Coen has been a member of the council’s executive board for 20 years. He has also been a member of the Marco Island Sunrise Rotary Club since 1983 and was president of the club in 1987.

Coen graduated from Naples High School in 1970 and enrolled in the FSU College of Music intending to become a school band director. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education in 1974 after spending five years in the Marching Chiefs. Coen met his wife in 1971 when they were both sophomores in the Marching Chiefs. In 1977, he entered the College of Business and graduated with a Master of Business Administration in 1979. He then returned home to Collier County to find employment.
Dr. C. Raymond Cottrell received his medical degree from the University of Texas-San Antonio. Cottrell completed his internship and residency in internal medicine and his fellowship in gastroenterology at Shands Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida. He served as chairman of the Division of Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Endoscopy at Shands for ten years.

Cottrell practiced in Orlando for 24 years before moving to Tallahassee in 2006. While in Orlando, he served as chairman of the Division of Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Endoscopy for 10 years at the main campus of Orlando Regional Medical Center. Cottrell enjoys practicing all aspects of gastroenterology and hepatology and has served on numerous boards and committees at his alma mater, Florida State University. He was the national chairman of both the FSU Alumni Association and Seminole Boosters boards of directors. He is an avid golfer.
As executive director of the International Bar Association, Mark Ellis leads the foremost international organization of bar associations, law firms and individual lawyers in the world. The IBA is comprised of more than 190 national bar associations, major international law firms and 80,000 individual members from around the world.

Before joining the IBA, he spent ten years as the first executive director of the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, a project of the American Bar Association. Providing technical legal assistance to twenty-eight countries in Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, and to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, CEELI remains one of the most extensive international pro bono legal assistance project ever undertaken by the US legal community.

He served as legal advisor to the Independent International Commission on Kosovo, chaired by Justice Richard J. Goldstone and was appointed by OSCE to advise on the creation of Serbia’s War Crimes Tribunal. He was actively involved with the Iraqi High Tribunal and also acted as legal consultant to the defense team of Nuon Chea at the Cambodian War Crimes Tribunal.

In 2013, Dr. Ellis was admitted to the List of Assistants to Counsel of the International Criminal Court. In 2015, he was appointed to the UN-created Advisory Panel on Matters Relating to Defence Counsel of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (previously to the ICTY and ICTR 2006-2012).

Dr. Ellis was a long-time consultant to The World Bank on investment policies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and was an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. He is presently an adjunct professor at the Florida State University College of Law.

Twice a Fulbright Scholar at the Economic Institute in Zagreb, Croatia, he earned his J.D. and B.S. degrees in economics from Florida State University and his Ph.D. in law from King’s College, London. He is the recipient of two research grants to
the European Union and the Institut d’Etudes Europeenes in Brussels, Belgium focusing on the law and institutions of the European Union.
Cameron Fink is a senior studying political science and interdisciplinary social science with a minor in urban and regional planning. After receiving his undergraduate degree in the fall of 2021, Fink plans on starting his Master of Public Administration. He has previously worked at The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners as a legislative intern.

Fink has been involved in many different organizations throughout his collegiate career and has held several leadership positions, which have deepened his love for Florida State University. Fink is a proud brother of the Kappa Alpha Order, where he held the role of treasurer. He has also served as a student senator in the 71st Student Senate as the vice chair for the Student Life and Academic Affairs Committee. Recently he was confirmed as the student body deputy treasurer for the Levin, Janvier and Hall Administration. Last year, Fink was appointed to the Student Foundation Board of Trustees as the director of annual giving and ran one of the most successful campaigns in the organization’s history. He now serves as the FSU Student Foundation chair.
Arthur L. Fleming

Trusteeship and Engagement

Smyrna, Ga.

Arthur L. Fleming is the senior vice president and director of community investment services for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. He has over 35 years of results-driven experience in various leadership positions in financial services, housing finance, land use law and academia.

Prior to FHLBank Atlanta, Fleming was the chief lending and investment officer for the Opportunity Finance Network, Inc.; senior director for the southeast region and director of housing finance for the Fannie Mae Foundation; and SVP, managing director/housing initiatives at GMAC Residential. Before joining GMAC Residential, he was the founder and executive director of the Community Financing Consortium. Prior to the CFC, Fleming was the attorney/senior associate for the FAU/FIU Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems.

Fleming received his undergraduate degree from Florida State University in 1981, a Master in Urban and Regional Planning in 1984 and a J.D. from the University of Florida. FSU recognized him in 2019 as one of their “Grads Made Good,” and he is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Andrea K. Friall, M.D., is an obstetrician and gynecologist, and she is the vice president at North Florida Women’s Care in Tallahassee, Florida.

Friall is a native Floridian. She received her Bachelor of Science in biology from Florida State University and received her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine. While at Howard, Friall was recognized for her community service and leadership. She completed her specialized training in obstetrics and gynecology at Tulane University, where she received many distinguished awards honoring her performance, service and teaching.

Friall is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. She served as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare from 2004-2006 and as chair for the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Medical Staff from 2015-2016. She is a member of the National Medical Association, William Gunn Society and Capital Medical Society, and she is a past board member of the Florida Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society and the American Red Cross. Friall is the current District 12, Section 1, chair of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an associate clinical professor for the FSU College of Medicine.
Jeffrey Gargiulo created Gargiulo Vineyards, an Oakville Napa Valley winery, in 1994. In 2008, he was the architect for the purchase of Greenleaf Produce, a diversified produce distributor based in San Francisco, and he has since been its chairman and lead investor.

After graduating from FSU in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in marketing, Gargiulo returned to the family business of fruit and vegetable growing, working in all aspects of the business from farming to sales. Gargiulo became CEO of the Naples Tomato Growers in 1985 and consolidated a number of companies into Gargiulo, Inc, which sold to Monsanto in 1994. Gargiulo was president of Monsanto Produce from 1994 through 1997 and CEO of Sunkist Growers from 2001 through 2006.

Gargiulo has been a board member and president of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, chair of the Produce Marketing Association, chairman of the board of trustees of St. Leo’s University and board member of C&S Bank/NationsBank. He is currently a member of the Florida Council of 100 and on the board of directors of Oakville Wine Growers since 2003.
Jimmy Graganella

Ex Officio
Chair
Seminole Boosters

Tallahassee, Fla.

Jimmy Graganella received his degree from FSU and was a varsity letterman in football. He is the president, CEO and a founding member of Capitol Preferred Insurance Company, Inc., Southern Fidelity Insurance Company, National Consumer Title Group and Graganella Real Estate. Graganella has over 40 years of experience directing all levels of insurance and is recognized as an influential leader in the industry. He also owns Mom and Dad’s Italian Restaurant, Blu Halo and several other businesses.

Graganella and his wife, Lisa, currently reside in Tallahassee, Florida. They have two children—Nicole, who was a Golden Girl, and Nick, who played baseball for FSU. Graganella’s hobbies include golf, hunting and fishing.

Gunning has spent the majority of his career working with EY’s largest clients where he provides transfer pricing planning, documentation and controversy services. His experience includes designing unspecified methods, valuation-based approaches for transfer pricing, post-acquisition transfer pricing integration, implementation of conversion strategies, transfer pricing design for partnerships and negotiating transfer pricing positions with government authorities.

Gunning has worked in the Houston, New York and London EY offices. He has a B.S. in Economics from Florida State University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Rice University, with a concentration in health economics and applied econometrics. Gunning is currently a member of the Class of 2021 Executive MBA program at Yale University.

Prior to his time at EY, Gunning was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Tax and Expenditure Policy Program at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy in Houston, TX, and a Statistical Research Fellow in Taxation at the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington, D.C. Gunning has published articles in the National Tax Journal, Empirical Economics and the Journal of Productivity Analysis. He is also a contributor to the MIT Press volume: Fundamental Tax Reform.

Gunning most recently served as the former chair for the American Bar Association Tax Section, where he works to promote the development of thought leadership as it relates to new developments in transfer pricing.
Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Franklin L. Hagenbeck

Donor Stewardship
Trusteeship and Engagement

Jacksonville, Fla.

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Franklin L. “Buster” Hagenbeck is president of a consulting firm based in Jacksonville, Fla. He serves as an expert on leadership and national security issues for the firm.

Hagenbeck graduated and was commissioned as a second lieutenant from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He holds a Master of Science from Florida State University and an MBA from Long Island University. He also attended the Maxwell School National Security Program at Syracuse University. His military education includes the Army War College, Army Command and General Staff College and the Infantry Officer Advanced Course.

Hagenbeck served in the U.S. Army for more than 39 years, culminating his career as the 57th superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy. He commanded at every level, from company through division, including a stint as commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division. He also served in the 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division and the Training and Doctrine Command.

Hagenbeck served as the Army’s deputy chief of staff for Personnel and held numerous other staff positions. He also served in several joint assignments, including service as exchange officer to the Royal Australian Infantry Center, and as strategic plans and policy directorate and deputy director for Current Operations, Joint Staff.

Hagenbeck led the first conventional forces into Afghanistan in fall 2001 as the commander of Coalition Joint Task Force Mountain. He was senior commander in Afghanistan, and in March 2002, he commanded Operation Anaconda, the largest conventional battle since the end of the Vietnam War. He received numerous awards and decorations, including two Distinguished Service Medals.

Hagenbeck is a board member for both Bite Technology and the non-profit National Organization on Disability. In addition to his service on the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees, he is the director of the Engineering Leadership Institute at the University of Florida College of Engineering. He also advises several multi-national corporations and is a member of the Elbe
Group, which is sponsored by the Belfer Center at Harvard’s Kennedy Center and focuses on nuclear counter-terrorism. Hagenbeck was recently selected as a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He is one of 12 leaders featured in Gary Burnison’s “No Fear of Failure—Real Stories of How Leaders Deal with Risk and Change” and is profiled in the book “West Point Leadership: Profiles of Courage.”
Frank A. Hall was one of the four original executives instrumental in raising capital and obtaining charter approval for a de novo financial institution, Summit Bank, N.A., in 2008 during the financial crisis. Hall served as the bank’s chief operating officer. Summit Bank was profitable within 18 months of opening its doors and received a 5 Star Bauer rating every quarter until being sold to BancorpSouth in 2019. Hall currently serves as president of the Panama City market for BancorpSouth. He has previously worked at both Vision Bank and Regions Bank in the roles of regional president and group president, respectively. His career consists of 36 years in the financial industry.

At all three financial institutions, Hall was instrumental in endowing numerous scholarships and personally endowed two scholarships. Hall is a member of FSU Panama City’s Dean’s Council and previously served as chair for three consecutive years. He served on the FSU Panama City Development Board from 2002–2014 and on the FSU National Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2007–2009. He has served on and held leadership positions with several civic, philanthropic and government entities in the Panama City area. Hall is a 1989 graduate of Florida State, with a B.S. in business management. He has lived in Panama City for 40 years with his wife Chrisanthi Hall, his daughter Alex (FSU Alumna - B.S. Early Education (16) and M.S. Curriculum and Instruction (18)) and his dachshund, Kadie.
After graduating from FSU in 1964, Tom C. Haney, M.D., attended Emory Medical School, was a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force and completed the Emory University Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program. He returned to Tallahassee in 1975 to co-found the Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic, which has grown from two physicians to 28 physicians with 325 employees, serving as a regional sports medicine center.

In addition to his clinical and surgical practice, Haney served as team physician for FSU athletes from 1975–2010, including all of Coach Bowden’s head-coaching years. He was chairman of the Alumni Association board in 2000–2001, was named to the FSU Alumni Association’s Circle of Gold and was a Moore-Stone recipient of the FSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

While at FSU, Haney was a member of the freshman football team that was the first FSU football team to beat a Gator team. He was president of his junior and senior classes and a member of ODK, Gold Key and the Senior Hall of Fame.
Marion Taormina Hargett

Donor Stewardship
Trusteeship and Engagement

Ridgefield, Conn.

Marion Taormina Hargett is the senior vice president of agency strategy and advanced TV sales for Ampersand, an audience-based multi-screen TV advertising sales and technology company owned in partnership by Charter, Comcast and Cox. Prior to joining Ampersand, Hargett served as SVP of NBCU’s Owned Television Stations Group (NBC and Telemundo) where she managed advertising sales and marketing initiatives. In her previous position as SVP of Olympics and Sports Sales, Hargett managed advertising sales and marketing strategies for NBC's largest sporting events, including the Olympic Games and the World Cup, in addition to guiding strategy for the NFL, NHL, PGA and Premier League.

Hargett first joined NBCUniversal in 2002 as director of business development. In this role, she built customized marketing strategies around NBC’s key events including the Golden Globes, Emmy Awards, Premiere Week and Christmas at Rockefeller Center. During her tenure, Hargett’s team helped execute the most successful Olympics sales effort in the history of the NBC Owned Stations Division during the Rio Summer Games. Before joining NBCUniversal, Hargett was director of business development for Clear Channel where she created and managed marketing deals with multiple platforms of 1,400 radio stations, Clear Channel Concerts and Clear Channel Outdoor.

Hargett has been recognized numerous times for her sales leadership and success. She received her B.A. in Communications and Education from Florida State University where she currently serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees and has previously served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Seminole Torchbearers Board of Directors and was awarded the FSU Grad Made Good in 2016.

As a student at FSU, Hargett was a member and leader of Delta Zeta Sorority, Order of Omega and Scalhpurers. Marion currently resides in Connecticut and is married to Kyle Hargett. They have two sons, Hunter and Griffin.
Dean Michael D. Hartline

Ex Officio
Chair
Deans Development Committee,
Academic Deans Council

Development
Donor Stewardship
Tallahassee, Fla.

Mike Hartline is dean of the Florida State University College of Business, and chair of the Development Committee for the Academic Deans Council.

Before assuming his current position, he served as interim dean, associate dean for Strategic Initiatives, and chair of the college's Department of Marketing. Before coming to Florida State, Hartline was an associate professor of marketing at Samford University; assistant professor of marketing at Louisiana State University; and assistant professor of marketing and advertising at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. He has authored or co-authored a number of books and articles, served on the editorial review boards of several academic journals, made numerous presentations to industry and academic audiences and co-chaired two international conferences. Hartline is the former vice president of development for the Academy of Marketing Science. He also has served as a consultant to several for-profit and non-profit organizations in the areas of marketing plan development, market feasibility analyses, customer satisfaction measurement, customer service training and pricing policy.

Hartline earned a Ph.D. in business administration from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis, and an M.B.A and bachelor's in marketing, both from Jacksonville State University in Alabama.
Judith Hayden is an environmental engineer specializing in infrastructure projects. She is president and founder of Environmental and Geotechnical Specialists, which provides environmental and geophysical engineering services for transportation-related projects throughout north Florida. The business has grown to five locations across the state.

Hayden received a Bachelor of Science in education from the University of Dayton and taught in a rural public school in Indiana following graduation. She returned to university life, receiving a Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma State University in civil engineering in 1977, where she was the only female civil engineering student in her class. She received a Master of Science in civil engineering in 1979 from Kansas State University. She was recognized throughout her engineering studies for her accomplishments, receiving both scholarships and research assistantships.

Hayden worked for private engineering firms and governmental agencies throughout her early career. In 1992, she opened EGS with her husband, Myron, in Tallahassee. Their two adult children, Tom and Audra, joined the business upon receipt of their civil engineering degrees.

Hayden is a board-certified professional engineer. She is an active member of the Florida Engineering Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Public Works Association and the American Society of Highway Engineers. Hayden has received the Engineer of the Year award from both the Florida Engineering Society Big Bend Chapter and the American Society of Civil Engineers, Big Bend Chapter. She serves on the board for the Florida Engineering Foundation.

Hayden has been very active in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering over the past 25 years, serving on its advisory board.
Mart P. Hill

Founding Trustee
Development
Trusteeship and Engagement
Tallahassee, Fla.

Born in Greenwood, S.C., Mart Pierson Hill graduated from the Florida State College for Women with a bachelor's degree in English. She was president of the College Government Association and chair of the Student War Defense Committee. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Delta Pi, Esteren and Mortar Board. In addition, she was elected May Queen.

The Tallahassee resident's hobbies include reading, playing bridge, antiques, theater, music, family activities and all Florida State University activities. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters, Torch award, Circle of Gold award and Distinguished Emeritus award from Florida State.

She is the former president of the Tallahassee Junior League, former president of the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science and a member of the Florida Arts Council. She is a member of the Florida State University College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Council and the Florida State University Patrons Theater Board.

Hill has generously supported a vast array of areas at Florida State, including the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Music, the College of Medicine and the Theatre Patrons.
Nan Casper Hillis of Tallahassee earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University’s College of Business in 1976 with majors in marketing and finance.

Hillis and her husband, Mark, have established seven endowed scholarships for students at FSU and one professorship in Real Estate in the College of Business. Additionally, they have donated to the FSU Alumni Center, the new College of Business Building, Legacy Hall and the Veterans Legacy Complex.

Hillis serves as the secretary of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees, serves on the FSU Veterans Alliance Advancement Council and the FSU Heritage Museum Advisory Board. Previously she served on the FSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the FSU College of Business Board of Directors, co-chaired the $600 million FSU Connect capital campaign and served on the Raise the Torch: The Campaign for Florida State National Campaign Committee.

Hillis is the recipient of the FSU Alumni Circle of Gold Award, the FSU Faculty Senate Mores Torch Award, the FSU Real Estate Network Award and is a member of the FSU College of Business Hall of Fame.
Dr. William Hold is co-founder and president of The National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research, a national insurance and risk management education organization. In 1969, the Certified Insurance Counselors designation program was developed as the initial offering of The National Alliance. Today, with Hold's leadership, The National Alliance is an umbrella organization under which exist research and educational programs designed primarily for insurance and risk management professionals. More than 2,500 programs for more than 142,000 participants are conducted across the nation and in Puerto Rico and Mexico each year.

Hold has been a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Texas. At UT, he was an associate professor, responsible for the insurance and risk management area within the Graduate School of Business. His writings have been published in insurance-related academic and trade journals, including the Journal of Risk and Insurance, the Insurance Law Journal, and the CPCU Annals. He is the author of several books on industry-related topics. Prior to founding CIC, he was the vice president of the National Association of Independent Insurers and served as a consultant to organizations such as the American and Texas Trial Lawyers Associations, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Transportation and the Texas State Board of Insurance.

Hold completed his undergraduate studies at Florida State University; he received his master's degree in 1964 and his Ph.D. in 1967 from the University of Wisconsin. He has been named to the prestigious Insurance Newscast's annual list of the "100 Most Powerful People in the Insurance Industry" six years in a row. In 2011, he received the Dr. Henry C. Martin Award of Industry Achievement, which is named after the founder of The Rough Notes Company. Included in the 2012 list of the 25 Living Legends in Insurance by Property Casualty 360, Hold was inducted into the Florida State University College of Business Hall of Fame in 2012. Most recently, in honor of his contributions to the industry and professional education, the College of Business established a foundation and program in his name: the Dr. William T. Hold/The National Alliance Program in Risk Management and Insurance.
Christopher E. Iansiti is founder and president of IANSITI Performance Group, Inc., an organizational performance consulting firm. The firm serves national and global corporations, and its practice areas include leadership performance, employee on-boarding, sales and customer experience effectiveness, and learning sustainment. Their expertise lies in the ability to guide organizations through change. Prior to the formation of IANSITI Performance Group, Iansiti worked as an officer with Delphi Performance Consulting, Inc., and as a consultant with Accenture and Arthur Andersen.

Iansiti received both his Bachelor of Science in finance and Master of Science in instructional systems from Florida State University. He was honored as Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 2011 by the FSU College of Education and awarded the Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Alumnus for the Instructional Systems and Learning Technologies Department in 2013. Iansiti has his certificate in advanced coaching from the Center for Leadership Design and has been a guest contributor for CNN’s “Jobless, Not Hopeless” segment. He is a member of the Instructional Systems Alumni Council and the immediate past chair of the FSU College of Business Board of Governors.
Nastassia Janvier was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, graduated as a first-generation student from Florida State University and is now a Master in Public Administration candidate who dedicates her time to public service and activism. As an aspiring lawyer, she advocates for communities by both institutional and extra-institutional means. Through various experiences, she continues to mobilize young people and encourage them to be civically engaged. In Florida, Janvier has worked at lobbying firms like Pittman Law Group in Tallahassee, where she employed her research training to develop policies. As a former intern with the university’s Title IX department, she raised awareness of sexual violence and rape culture on college campuses.

Janvier is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Previously, she served as chapter president of the NAACP and executive board member for the Tallahassee League of Women Voters. She currently serves as FSU’s student body president and on the Florida State University Board of Trustees. Janvier has worked with the Tallahassee City Council and with State Senator Annette Taddeo on a number of local and state issues. Janvier continually seeks opportunities to encourage millennials to participate in civic affairs. She was a fellow with Young People 4 and the NAACP’s NextGen Program. The NextGen Program sponsors the development and implementation of strategic plans to address pressing community issues. Janvier plans to further her work in public service by obtaining her J.D. following the completion of her master’s.
Russell Kohl is the president and chief executive officer of Freud America, Inc., an industry-leading manufacturer and marketer of superior cutting tools & portable power tools. Founded in 1960, Freud supplies a full line of high-quality cutting tools that includes saw blades, router bits, abrasives, reciprocating blades and shaper cutters. Freud owns and operates the most innovative and technologically advanced manufacturing facilities in Italy and Switzerland; thus consistently delivering premium quality products.

Since joining Freud in 2000, Kohl has engineered the company's North America (NA) strategic direction for outstanding operational performance, superior brand recognition, and impressive rise in stakeholder value. This period has been marked by an unprecedented growth resulting in a 35x increase in business. In addition to his NA responsibilities, Kohl also assists in Freud's overall global strategy and manufacturing direction.

Kohl's extensive background in sales, finance, marketing, operations and product development has resulted in the successful launch of new brands and divisions for the company. Under Kohl's leadership, Freud launched its premium line of construction cutting tools and most successful brand, Diablo. To date, Diablo has won multiple awards including a two-time recipient of Home Depot's prestigious "Merchandising Innovation" award and "Hottest Tool" from Wood Magazine. Kohl's focus on innovation and his vision to "change the market forever" has elevated Diablo to reign as the top brand in the construction market.

Kohl formerly served as vice president of new product development, marketing and sales at Peachtree Doors and Windows, Atlanta. In this role, he oversaw a 30 percent growth in the company, while recruiting an energetic leadership team.

Kohl began his career holding multiple successful positions in sales, marketing, & product development with the Dewalt division of Black & Decker for 10 years. Working primarily on the company's profitable launch of its "yellow tools" line, this brand became one of the most thriving in the
industry at the time, growing into a billion dollar product line.

In his spare time, Kohl is an active member of the Young President's Organization (YPO) and enjoys volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, where he was honored with the North Atlanta Chapter's "Rusty Nail" award. Recently, he served as the keynote speaker for the Southeast Security Leaders Summit. Kohl earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University and holds an MBA from Loyola College of Business. He also studied in the Master of Science program at Johns Hopkins University. Kohl resides in Atlanta, GA, and has two children, Amelia and Ian.
Dave Lane served as chair of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees from 2018–2020. Joining the board in 2012, Lane has orchestrated productive relationships and created pathways for growth with a strong emphasis on committee empowerment and leadership to new board strategies. Over his career as a builder of executive teams and operations that build great consumer brands, Lane has honed his passion for developing competitive leaders and bringing communities together and this has extended to his investment in the future of education. Lane is also president of the Lake Forest, Illinois District 115 School Board.

Lane made a name for himself in the wine and spirits industry. He has worked at 3 different firms, moving from a 14 year career, at Gallo to another 14 year assignment at Terlato Wines where he rose to become the president and COO. In June of 2020 he took a new role at Republic National Distributing Company where he is currently leading their retail chain business. He’s blended sales and brand marketing expertise with steady vision and management to attain category leadership in branded and now distribution channels.

Lane earned an MBA in marketing and international business from Duke University’s Fuqua School and is a graduate of Florida State University. He and his wife live in Lake Bluff, IL where he’s active in the pursuits of their three children and sometimes trains for marathons.

Lassus was named one of Investopedia’s Top 100 Most Influential Financial Advisors in 2017 and 2018. The Investopedia 100 was created by analyzing financial advisors’ presence and impact across social media channels, television and radio, conferences and their own blogs and websites. In 2018, Diahann was appointed to the Financial Planning Foundation, Individual Development Committee. In 2016, she was appointed to the newly formed Commission on Standards by the CFP Board. The commission was charged with reviewing and making recommendations in keeping with CFP board’s mission to benefit the public by granting the CFP® certification and upholding it as the recognized standard of excellence for competent and ethical financial planning. In 2018, the CFP Board of Directors approved a new Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct, which sets forth the ethical standards for CFP® professionals, effective October 1, 2019. Lassus was named one of the 30 Most Influential in 2013 by the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, was named among the 25 people who have shaped the advice business by InvestmentNews in 2013 and won the Five Star Wealth Manager Award for 2012-2019.

Lassus is on the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Florida State University College of Business Board of Governors. Lassus previously held positions in accounting and line operations for Blue Cross Blue Shield, Xerox and AT&T. She was the field operations manager for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Lassus earned a bachelor’s degree in management from
Florida State University and an MBA at the University of North Florida.
John M. Lusk recently retired as executive vice president of investment management for Franklin Templeton Investments, where he was responsible for the firm's independent core equity and fixed-income investment management groups, including the Franklin, Templeton and Mutual Series, as well as the trading area consisting of 13 trading desks around the world. He oversaw investment risk management and the global portfolio and corporate services group that focus on providing portfolio compliance, market data services and other support services for the investment teams. Along with the firm’s CEO, Lusk co-chaired the investment management committee, and was a member of the enterprise risk committee.

Lusk joined Franklin Templeton in 1993, and during the course of his career there served as vice president of Franklin Resources Inc. and chief administrative officer to a co-CEO. His other previous positions included chief financial officer and chief administrative officer of Fiduciary Trust Company International in New York and director of Corporate/International Tax. Prior to joining Franklin Templeton, Lusk was a senior tax manager with Ernst & Young LLP.

Lusk earned his B.S. in accounting with a minor in economics from Florida State University. He is a certified public accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He also attended the Center for Creative Leadership’s Leadership Development Program.
Craig T. Lynch is a partner practicing commercial real estate law with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition, he is a five term member of the firm’s board of directors and chairs its Finance Committee. Lynch was named to Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers, North Carolina Super Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in America by Woodward/White. He received the 2013 North Carolina Bar Association’s Citizen Lawyer Award for exemplary public service. Lynch has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of North Carolina. He chairs the Real Estate Sector of the Mecklenburg County Bar’s 2020 Justice Access Initiative.

Lynch currently serves on the National Advisory Council of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2010, he received the “Hope Award,” the highest honor bestowed by the MS Society. In 2017, Lynch completed a 15-year term on the MS Society’s national board of directors, serving as its secretary for five years and as a vice chair for four years. He was inducted into the MS Society’s Volunteer Hall of Fame in 2018. From 2008 – 2017, Lynch served on the Board of the Alumni Association of the University of North Carolina School of Law, from which he earned his juris doctor in 1986. In 2014, he was elected as president of the UNC Law Alumni Association, contemporaneously serving on that university’s General Alumni Association Board. Lynch was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Steve L. Breshear in 2011 for public service to the Commonwealth, and was selected for the Irish Legal 100 in 2020.

Prior to attending law school, Lynch received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Florida State University and graduated summa cum laude in 1981. During his senior year, he developed the marketing plan for the men’s basketball team as it transitioned from Tully Gym to the Tucker Center. Lynch is a Lifetime member of the FSU Alumni Association, a member of the FSU Foundation’s Presidents Club and Seminole Boosters. During the period from 2011 – 2019, he served as a Director of the Alumni Association and chaired its Board from 2017-2018. Lynch was
inducted into the Florida State Alumni Association’s Circle of Gold in 2017. He is also an active member and three-time past president of the Charlotte Seminole Club.

Lynch and his wife, Mitzi, have two sons, Devin, a senior at the University of North Carolina, and Ryan, a high school junior.
Richard McCullough became the 16th president of Florida State University on August 16, 2021, bringing more than 30 years of academic research and leadership experience to the role as well as a commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Prior to joining FSU, McCullough had served as vice provost for research and professor of materials science and engineering at Harvard University since 2012. In this role, he oversaw the development, review and implementation of strategies, planning and policies related to academic research. In addition, he led an office of Foundation and Corporate Engagement and assisted in the oversight of more than 25 interdisciplinary institutes, centers and initiatives across the university.

During his tenure, McCullough successfully built and launched the new Harvard Data Science Initiative, a collaboration between 12 of the university’s schools and more than 120 faculty, which led to three new master’s programs and many new undergraduate courses.

McCullough developed and launched a new structural biology program and cryo-electron microscope facility that partners Harvard Medical School with three Boston-area hospitals. He also led the development of a new $100 million, multi-institution collaboration to build the Advanced Biological Innovation and Manufacturing Center and Facility, which will be a hub for medical research and education, as well as economic and workforce development.

Previously, McCullough spent 22 years at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he began his academic career as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1990 and became the Thomas Lord Professor of Chemistry in 2009. He was promoted to head of the chemistry department in 1998 and then served as dean of the Mellon College of Science from 2001 to 2007 before becoming the university’s vice president for research.

McCullough, who holds multiple patents and is the founder of two companies, has a rich background in entrepreneurship and
innovation. At Carnegie Mellon, he developed a vibrant innovation ecosystem, including the Greenlighting Start-ups Initiative that exponentially increased the generation of university spin-out companies and corporate engagement. In 2013, he was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

A staunch champion of diversity, McCullough created a diverse pipeline of Black/African American, Latinx and other underrepresented minority academics from both his research lab and as the founding creator of the Future Faculty Workshop: Diverse Leaders of Tomorrow. This annual workshop helps diverse postdoctoral fellows and students obtain academic jobs. Now in its 15th year, the workshop has facilitated placing more than 50 underrepresented minority professors in the United States.

McCullough is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals, including Advanced Materials. He has been an innovation, entrepreneurship and technology transfer advisor to Oxford University, Princeton University and Washington University at St. Louis.

A first-generation college student from Mesquite, Texas, McCullough attended Eastfield Community College before earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1982 and a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from Johns Hopkins University in 1988. McCullough also spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University in New York.

He and his wife, Jai Vartikar, have two children, Jason and Dylan, daughter-in-law, Sarah Christian, and two granddaughters, Gladys and Archer.
Nancy McKay is a senior leader in the beauty industry with experience in both the corporate and entrepreneurial worlds. McKay most recently was the CEO of Barefoot Scientist, a startup company which brings to market the first scientific brand to create luxury care for your feet. Her previous experience spans a 28 year career with the Estee Lauder Companies, and, the CEO of NEST Fragrances, a boutique luxury fragrance company. Under her leadership NEST Fragrances was named to the TOP 10 Power Fragrance Brands by Women’s Wear Daily in 2018. McKay and her team led the successful sale of NEST to Eurazeo Brands in November, 2017 from Tengram Partners.

Prior to being appointed CEO of NEST Fragrances in January 2015, McKay was general manager and senior vice president of the Estee Lauder brand, Tom Ford Beauty & AERIN Beauty for North America at The Estee Lauder Companies, Inc. In that role, she was responsible for growing the billion dollar Estee Lauder brand’s skin care, makeup and fragrance businesses across North America. In addition, McKay was responsible for the launch and development of the tremendously successful Tom Ford Beauty brand in North America – including fragrances and cosmetics – as well as the launch of AERIN Beauty.

McKay is well-known for being focused on growth, loving to build strong brands, and creating high performance teams. In addition, she has a reputation for solid, long-term customer relationships as well as finding new partners across today’s changing landscape. Key accomplishments include growing and strengthening the many brands with which she has been associated, which, in addition to Estee Lauder, Tom Ford Beauty, & AERIN Beauty, include Clinique, Donna Karan, and Tommy Hilfiger and Michael Kors Fragrances.

A firm believer in giving back, McKay was involved for many years in The Estee Lauder Companies fundraising efforts for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, where she led teams that worked together to generate more than two million dollars for the organization. McKay has also been a passionate alumnae of Florida State University where she serves as chair of FSU Foundation Board of Trustees. In May of 2016,
McKay was honored in New York by the FSU Alumni Association with the inaugural “The Inspire Award” for FSU Women of Distinction. She was also the commencement speaker in August, 2017. Additionally she serves as the ambassador for FSU with Fashion Scholarship Fund, where she served a term on the Board of Governors. She is presently an adjunct lecturer at the Florida State University College of Business.

McKay is a mentor in the FIT Graduate Program in Cosmetics & Toiletries, and has served on the Board of Directors of Mother's Day Council since 2005 which is a supporter of Save the Children.
Steve Mudder’s international legal and business career spans over 21 years in private law firms and as in-house counsel and investor in numerous domestic and foreign companies. Mudder worked the prior 13 years as an executive vice president and general counsel in companies that specialized in owning and operating wireless telecommunications infrastructure in Asia and Southeast Asia. From 2013 to 2018, he and his partners owned and operated the premier telecom tower company in Myanmar before selling the company to private equity group TPG. From 2007 to 2017 Mudder and his partners owned and operated the largest telecom tower company in Indonesia, PT Sarana Menara Nusantara Tbk (SMN). Mudder also served as a member of the board of directors. While working in Indonesia and Myanmar he directed all legal, contractual, litigation and regulatory matters, and he played a key role in business development initiatives, debt and equity financings and tower portfolio acquisitions.

Before his group ventured into Southeast Asia, Mudder served as vice president, international - legal for American Tower Corporation (NYSE: AMT), the world’s largest independent tower company, where he was responsible for overseeing American Tower’s legal affairs in Mexico, Brazil and India, as well as its global expansion efforts in South America, India and Asia.

Before joining American Tower, Mudder was a partner in the Atlanta-based law firm Cohen, Cooper, Estep & Mudder from 2002 to 2006, where he specialized in corporate, sports and entertainment law, with a focus on representing small businesses, entertainers, musicians and professional athletes. Mudder received his formal training as a corporate and mergers & acquisitions attorney while working at two internationally recognized law firms: Gunderson Dettmer in Silicon Valley, California, and King & Spalding in Atlanta, Georgia. He has been recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyer - Rising Star and he appears in Marquis’ Who’s Who in American Law.

Mudder earned his Juris Doctorate degree, Cum Laude, from Harvard Law School in 1998, and was elected to serve as one of four class officers. Mudder earned his Bachelor of Finance
degree, *Summa Cum Laude*, in 1995 from Florida State University, where he graduated at the top of his class with a 4.0 GPA.

Mudder enjoys staying connected to Florida State University by serving as a trustee on the Foundation Board of Trustees, serving on FSU’s College of Business Board of Governors and serving as a director and vice president of the Alumni Corporation for Theta Chi Fraternity in Tallahassee, Fla.
Sean Pittman is the Senior Partner of Pittman Law Group, P.L., which specializes in the areas of government, administrative, and corporate law. Pittman represents a diverse client list of individuals, local governments, small businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. He prides himself on being trusted legal counsel to cities, counties, hospitals, banking institutions, aviation and port authorities, universities, industries, corporations, and various professional associations.

As a local government lawyer, Pittman represents Florida counties and municipalities before the Florida Cabinet, Florida Legislature, and other tribunals. As an administrative lawyer, he has a strong understanding of the Florida Administrative Procedures Act, advising clients on matters before the Department of Administrative Hearings and various State of Florida boards and agencies. Pittman also provides counsel to local government clients on issues related to Public Finance Law.

The Tallahassee Democrat named Pittman one of the "Top Twenty-Five Most Influential People in Tallahassee" and featured him in the article, "Capitol Clout" for being a significant political insider within the constantly changing environments of Florida's State Capitol. Pittman is ranked one of the "Top 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics" by Influence magazine and Florida Trend magazine says Pittman is "one to look for" in the new wave of politics in Florida while listing him as a "Must Know Contact" in Tallahassee. He has also been inducted into the Tallahassee Barristers Hall of Fame.

Pittman is the president and chairman of the prestigious Orange Bowl Committee, he is the founder and chairman of the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, serves on the board of directors for Hancock Whitney Bank, and serves on the Florida State University Foundation Board of Trustees. For his philanthropic endeavors, Pittman was awarded the Tallahassee Servant Leadership Award by Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the 2015 Distinguished Member Award by Leadership Florida. Pittman is also the recipient of the Founders Award in 2014 from the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce and the 2016 Heman Sweatt Award by
the National Bar Association, for demonstrating community leadership and concern for human and civil rights.

Pittman is a co-host of the popular television talk show "The Usual Suspects," airing on one of the highest watched CBS affiliates in the country. On the show, he analyzes and provides commentary on the latest happenings in state and national politics.
Mike Poland retired on June 30, 2019, after serving as a senior partner in the formerly named Ernst & Young, one of the world’s largest professional services organizations. He is currently serving as president of MC Poland LLC, a consulting services company.

While at EY, Poland held roles as a senior partner in the Global SEC Independence Center, as an assurance partner and as a member of the assurance practice.

As a senior partner in the Global SEC Independence Center, Poland advised EY engagement teams on complex matters related to communications with audit committees when independence-related issues arose. He had extensive interaction with SEC and PCAOB representatives, leading to a strong understanding of regulatory matters impacting both auditors and audit committees. He was routinely asked to provide information to EY leadership for evaluation of risk related to regulatory matters.

As an assurance partner, Poland consistently grew his practice by identifying new areas of focus and opportunity. While serving as health care market segment leader, he transitioned the Tampa health care practice from a non-profit hospital-based practice to one with private and public clients across the health care sector. He demonstrated strong leadership skills by establishing cross-functional teams to provide advisory services to audit clients. He was consistently recognized for developing team members and served as a counselor and mentor to many promotees to the EY partnership.

While at EY, Poland was actively involved in campus recruiting. He served as EY’s campus coordinating partner for the firm’s recruiting efforts at both Florida State University and Florida A&M University.

Poland obtained a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University in June 1980. He is a certified public accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
During his career, Poland has been active in many organizations. He is a member of the Audit Committee of BayCare Health System in Clearwater, Florida and the Hillsborough Education Foundation Board of Trustees. He is also a former member of FSU’s College of Business Board of Governors and the Department of Accounting Professional Advisory Board.
Bob Rice is the managing partner of Tangent Capital, a broker-dealer specializing in private investments and securities. He is also a senior advisor to Nasdaq Private Markets, Wilshire Associates and Macquarie Investment Management, and a director of the investment manager of the Value Line Funds.

Rice was present the night Renegade first took the field at Doak Campbell Stadium and received a bachelor’s from FSU in 1976 and an LLM from the College of Law—where he recently taught as an adjunct professor—in 1979. After school, Rice joined the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial lawyer and then became a tax partner at the international law firm Milbank, Tweed. He left the law to found a 3D visualization software startup that eventually merged into the publicly-traded Viewpoint Corporation and served as CEO for several years. Along the way, he also served as the PCA Commissioner, the worldwide governing body of professional chess players.

Rice is the bestselling author of “The Alternative Answer and Three Moves Ahead,” and a former contributing editor for Bloomberg TV and Fox Business. He is a frequent keynote speaker at financial industry events, focusing on how the technology revolution and modern central bank policies impact portfolio construction and management.
Throughout his 35+ year career, Riva has been responsible for the financing, construction, and development of high-profile commercial real estate (including apartments, office buildings, retail centers, industrial properties, hotels, resorts, single-family projects and land). Before forming Alexander Investments, Riva was an influential part of Epoch Properties, Inc. for more than 25 years and led the company as President for a decade. Riva also served as manager of the Central Florida office of Carey, Kramer, Silvester & Associates, a commercial real estate mortgage and sales company and his experience includes vice president/branch manager of Alliance Mortgage Company and territory manager for the Burroughs Corporation.

Representing more than 20,000 multi-family living units at a value of over $2 billion, Riva’s projects have been recognized in national publications such as Housing, Professional Builder, and Florida Trend.

Riva graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in business management, and received his Master of Science in management from Rollins College. He is a licensed Florida real estate broker, and a member of the National Multi-Housing Council. Riva is a member of the Florida State University executive board for the Center for Real Estate Education and Research and a member and past chairman of the board of advisors for the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins College.
Paula Smith matriculated to Florida State University from Richmond Va. She is a 1976 graduate of Florida State College of Human Sciences, majoring in Fashion Merchandising. Following graduation, Smith worked for Burdines in Miami as an assistant buyer, then department manager.

Returning to Tallahassee in 1978, Smith followed her passion and began working as a volunteer. She created and chaired an 8-year project to advocate, fund and build a permanent home for the Leon County Public Library. Before her work, Tallahassee was the only state capital without a permanent library home. Following the completion of the downtown library facility, she chaired the project to renovate Tallahassee’s five central downtown parks. In 1992-94, Smith served as volunteer president of Myers Park Little Major League, fundraising, renovating the park and designing new scorekeeper/concession stands for all the Tallahassee Little League parks. She chaired the 2001 United Way Fundraising Campaign, and in 2002, successfully solicited a $1M gift from Anheuser Busch Foundation to install the dolphin sculpture on the west plaza of the Florida Capitol. As a member of Leadership Florida Class IX, Smith served on their Board of Regents.

Smith is a member of the Circle of Gold and has served on the National Board of Directors of the FSU Alumni Association. She co-chaired the 50th Anniversary of FSCW becoming Florida State University. Smith chaired the Board of Governors of the College of Human Sciences, served on the College of Human Sciences Development Board, and was recognized with The Visionaries award in 2018.

Smith is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church and Bible Study Fellowship and is married to Bill Smith, Chairman and CEO of Capital City Bank Group.
Jay F. Steele is the CEO of Steele Consulting LLC, a tax consulting firm providing Fortune 1000 companies with credentialed, experienced consultants having a high degree of technical tax proficiency. The firm primarily represents clients in Atlanta, Detroit, New York City and San Jose.

Prior to founding Steele Consulting, Steele consulted extensively with Fortune 500 companies nationwide, primarily at Big 4 accounting firms. Steele has helped many of these companies achieve operational efficiencies and millions of dollars in profit increases through carefully considered and managed strategies.

Steele is the board chair of College Aim, an Atlanta-based organization that works to dismantle systemic racial and economic barriers for metro Atlanta high school students and has raised over $60 million in grants and scholarships for its students.

Steele is a member of the FSU College of Business Board of Governors and a lifetime member of the FSU Alumni Association. He received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from FSU and his law degree from Emory University.
Aggie Stoops received her Bachelor of Social Work from FSU in 1982 and her Master of Social Work from FSU in 1983. Aggie and her husband Jeff (who also received two degrees from FSU) met at Cawthon Hall and have been married 37 years. While Jeff was finishing law school, Aggie started her social work career in child welfare in the Tallahassee area. In 1984, Aggie and Jeff moved to Palm Beach County, Florida, where they have made their home since leaving Tallahassee. Aggie continued to work in child welfare until the birth of their second child in 1989. Today, Aggie and Jeff have four children, two grandchildren and are expecting their third grandchild in November 2021.

While raising her family, Stoops served as a community volunteer to several non-profit organizations in Palm Beach County. In 2013, she and her husband formed the Stoops Family Foundation which has since granted over $8 million to a variety of non-profit organizations, including those focused on education, healthcare, social services, child services and COVID-19 relief. Stoops serves as chairman of the Stoops Family Foundation. Through the Stoops Family Foundation, and personally, Stoops and her husband have been long-time contributors to Florida State University, including Seminole Boosters, the College of Law and the College of Social Work. The Stoops Family Foundation provided the initial funding for the formation and development for the Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children at the College of Social Work and the Stoops Center for Law and Business at the College of Law.

Stoops also currently serves as vice president and a director of HomeSafe, a Palm Beach County-based organization focused on at-risk foster children, domestic violence and newborn health. She is also a member of Impact 100, a South Florida women’s charitable organization that has given millions of dollars in grants to local non-profits.
Lou Taormina is a principal in the New York office of Frederic W. Cook and Co. Inc., where he consults with clients on a wide variety of executive compensation issues, including strategic short- and long-term incentive plan design, executive and director total remuneration and employment contract and change-in-control agreement review and design. He has more than 13 years of consulting experience and has worked with a varied contingent of clients from major indices, such as the S&P 500 and Nasdaq 100, to mid-cap and smaller start-up organizations.

Taormina has extensive experience working with board compensation committees and senior-level management. He has served as a guest speaker at conferences for compensation professionals and has published works on compensation topics.

Raised on the Treasure Coast in Stuart, Fla., Taormina earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Florida State University. While he was a student, Taormina was active in various campus organizations, including the Honors & Scholars Program, Omicron Delta Kappa, the Student Alumni Association, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and Mortar Board. After completing his undergraduate studies, Taormina earned a J.D. and an MBA in finance and security analysis from the University of Florida. He is a member of The Florida Bar and the New York State Bar Association, and he is an active member of the Florida State University Alumni Association and Seminole Boosters.
John Thiel, an FSU alumnus and former Merrill Lynch executive, is a dynamic board director, trusted business advisor and visionary financial services CEO.

During his 28-year career with Merrill Lynch, Thiel served as head of U.S. Global Wealth Management, steering the iconic financial firm through a period of unprecedented change, including its acquisition by Bank of America and overseeing a $15 billion business with 23,000 employees.

Thiel currently serves on the boards of Decker Communications and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation, which promotes initiatives focused on improving the financial literacy of underserved populations.

Thiel, who earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from FSU, was inducted into the College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame after many years of service in a variety of capacities. A long-time advocate for curing cancer, he serves on the board of the V Foundation for Cancer Research and chairs the board’s Don’t Ever Give Up support organization.

In July 2018, Thiel joined My Next Season as a partner and senior adviser. His work involves strategy consulting and business development for the organization, specializing in executive retirement and career transitions. He also advises and mentors not-for-profit CEO’s in developing strategy and proactively responding to change.

Thiel is a frequent speaker and has presented at a variety of venues and made multiple appearances on FOX Business Network and CNBC. He was Florida State’s spring commencement speaker in 2014 and 2019 and served as a Charles A. Bruning Distinguished Speaker at the College of Business.
Scott Wiegand

Ex Officio
Chair
FSU Alumni Association

Denver, Colo.

Scott E. Wiegand is an attorney with Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, a leading law firm headquartered in Denver, Colorado, with a large Las Vegas office. His practice is focused on the legal needs of gaming industry participants and new ventures. He was previously senior vice president, deputy general counsel and corporate secretary for Caesars Entertainment Corporation, one of the world’s largest casino entertainment providers, responsible for corporate governance and securities laws compliance and legal matters related to the company’s capital markets activity and resort development transactions worldwide.

Wiegand also serves on the board of trustees of HELP of Southern Nevada, a charitable organization serving the poor, homeless and people in crisis in the Las Vegas community. He was previously a member of the board of trustees for the Las Vegas Philharmonic and the Caesars Foundation, a private charitable foundation funded by operating income generated through Caesars’ portfolio of casino properties.

Wiegand earned a bachelor’s degree in music at Florida State University, graduating magna cum laude in 1990. At FSU, he also received a minor in law and society and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After completing his studies at FSU, Wiegand attended Cornell Law School, graduating in 1993 with a concentration in business law and regulation and then practiced law with large firms in Cincinnati until relocating to Las Vegas in 2000.

Wiegand is originally from Lexington, Kentucky. He and his wife, Erin, have two children, a son, Patrick, and a daughter, Ryan. In addition to his passion for Seminole athletics, he is a devoted fan of the Cincinnati Reds and Kentucky Wildcat basketball and enjoys cycling, backcountry hiking, skiing and snowboarding.
Ashbel C. "Ash" Williams Jr., is executive director and chief investment officer of the Florida State Board of Administration in Tallahassee.

He was previously a managing director at Fir Tree Partners, a value-oriented hedge fund based in New York City.

Williams began his professional career working on the staff of the Florida House of Representatives, serving as executive assistant to two House speakers.

Subsequently, he worked in Florida's executive branch, serving as deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Bob Graham and chief of staff to former Comptroller Gerald Lewis. Williams left Florida in 1996 to become president and chief executive officer of Schroder Capital Management in New York City.

This is Williams’ second time as an FSU Foundation trustee. He previously served on the board from 2001 until 2014, and chaired the board from 2010 to 2012.

Williams holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration from the Florida State University College of Business.

He has established the Ashbel Williams Scholarship Funds and has been very supportive of the College of Business. He and his wife, Janet, are recognized in the Robert M. Strozier Society of the Florida State University Foundation Presidents Club.
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