

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# Trustee Directory

*As of July 1, 2024*



**Thomas Bartelmo**

*Treasurer*

*Audit  
Executive  
Finance*

*Miami Lakes, Fla.*

Thomas “Tom” Bartelmo is president and CEO of The Kislak Organization and CEO of the Kislak Family Foundation Inc.

Bartelmo serves on the Smithsonian Institute’s National Air and Space Museum Board. He is a member of the James Madison Council, a private-sector advisory group whose mission is to support and promote the Library of Congress. He also serves on the University of Miami Herbert Business School Real Estate Advisory Board and is on the board of the South Florida Wildlife Center. He is a member of the Chief Executives Organization and the Young Presidents’ Organization.

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.



**Lance Barton**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Finance*

*Tampa, Fla.*

Lance Barton currently serves as president of National Risk Brokerage, managing director with Highland Capital and principal with Mythic Consulting. In addition, he serves on the boards of current investment interests. Barton has been in the insurance and financial services industry for the last 28 years. During this time, he acquired unique expertise in building national wholesale distribution models and regional retail sales organizations. His experience in serving distribution partners ranging from the top 10 consumer banks to investment firms, trust companies, general insurance agencies and insurance professionals puts him in a position to bring scalable and unique value to many insurance industry sectors. Barton has served—or currently serves—on numerous field advisory boards for the largest insurance providers in the domestic marketplace, including Prudential, Transamerica, AIG and New York Life.

He is a graduate of Florida State University and previously sat on the College of Business Board of Governors and the Seminole Boosters Board of Directors. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha during his time in Tallahassee (1988-92).

Barton is a dedicated husband and father, coaching and mentoring not only his children (Barron, 11 and Harper, 8) but many young men in the Tampa area.



**Bridgett Birmingham**

*Ex-Officio  
President  
Faculty Senate*

*Executive  
Tallahassee, Fla.*

Bridgett Birmingham is the library liaison for Film Studies and Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences and is responsible for collection development and instruction in those areas. In her current position as an undergraduate technology and media librarian, she is also responsible for media and technology consultations for undergraduates in all disciplines of study. She provides reference services both in person and at a distance through Skype, Ask-A-Librarian, email and phone consultations.

Birmingham has a strong interest in emerging technologies, learning outcomes and Learning Commons. The intersection of the academic and social spheres for undergraduate students is her primary area of research.

She has a B.A. in English literature from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and a master's degree in library and information studies from Florida State University. She is a member of the American Library Association and Educause.



**Jackson Boisvert**

*Ex Officio  
President  
Student Government Association*

*Orlando, Fla.*

Jackson Boisvert is the Student Body President at Florida State University, where he is pursuing a double major in Economics and Political Science. A junior, Jackson has demonstrated his commitment to leadership and service through numerous roles within the university's community. He previously served as the President of the Interfraternity Council, the Student Body Attorney General for the Student Government Association, and the Vice President of Alumni Relations for the Garnet and Gold Key Leadership Honorary.

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Jackson has a strong passion for advocacy and student safety. His leadership extends beyond administrative roles, having spearheaded various initiatives aimed at enhancing the campus environment and promoting student welfare. Upon graduation, Jackson plans to pursue a career in law and public policy.



**Javier Borges**

*Ex Officio  
Chair  
FSU Alumni Association*

*Pinecrest, Fla.*

Javi Borges is a Global Client Service Partner with Ernst & Young LLP (EY) dedicated to serving large, complex, global organizations. Located in Miami, Florida, he brings over 20 years of experience helping commercial and public sector organizations achieve their strategic, operational and risk management goals.

Javi has served in various roles successfully growing and transforming the business of EY. He has held positions in EY's tax, markets, health sciences, and government & public sector practices. He has served fortune 1000 companies in Florida and some of the largest state governments across the U.S.

In 2016, Javi was selected as a Young Hispanic Corporate Achiever by the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR). He also served on EY's Latino Professional Network Steering Committee and is committed to driving diversity, inclusiveness and equality in the workplace.

Javi and his wife Lauren have two children and are proud Florida State University Alumni. Javi served as President of the Seminole Club of New York City, where he helped establish the Noles in NYC program and the 9/11 memorial scholarship at FSU. He also served as President of the Miami Seminole Club where he established the '77 Club, which honors Seminole alumni from south Florida who have shown special dedication to our alma mater.

Javi has a B.S. in International Affairs and Multinational Business from FSU graduating in 1997; he is a Legacy Life Member of the FSU Alumni Association and a Seminole Booster.



**Yvonne T. Brown**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement  
Executive*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

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.

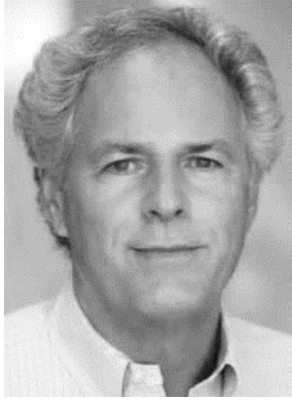
While living in South Florida, Brown served two terms on the Seminole Boosters Board of Directors and began her first 10-year term on the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

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* and have maintained Seminole Boosters Golden Chief status since 1977.

When Brown's husband retired in 2012, they moved to Tallahassee. Since then, 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 at the FSU College of Law.



**H. Michael Bush, CPA**

*Ex Officio  
Designee  
The John and Mable Ringling  
Museum of Art Board of  
Directors  
  
Sarasota, Fla.*

H. Michael Bush is the president/owner of Home Resource Inc., a luxury contemporary and modern furniture showroom located in Sarasota, Florida and headquartered on Central Avenue. He and his wife, Kathy, are professionals in the design and home furnishings industry. Situated within 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 its founding in 1995, Home Resource has grown to become the place in the southwest of Florida's West Coast where people can shop for high-end, luxury, 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 are 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 startup 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 many boards, including the Sarasota Ballet, Sarasota Contemporary Dance, West Coast Black Theatre Troupe, Theatre Odyssey, SaraSolo, Sarasota Season of Sculpture, Sarasota Film Festival and the Sarasota Architectural Foundation. In addition, Bush is serving a 14-year term as the president of the Rosemary District.





**Liz Cohen**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement  
Apollo Beach, Fla.*

Liz Cohen received her B.S. in education from Florida State University. Cohen is the recipient of two prestigious awards from the university—the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education and the 2021 Grads Made Good Award from the Alumni Association—for her large footprints in education and as a philanthropist. Additionally, she received her M.S. from Chapman University and studied school ethics and leadership at Oxford University in Oxford, England. As a retired educator, she has left a legacy of leadership and learning in school districts throughout the country as a school principal and a national educational consultant specializing in turning around failing schools. Her clients have included the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and school districts in California, Texas, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Additionally, she has maintained strong ties with her alma mater as an FSU College of Education Development Council member, FSU Foundation James D. Westcott Legacy Society member, FSU Foundation President’s Club honoree, FSU Alumni Association life member and former regional director for the FSU National Black Alumni Association. She is determined to help as many students as possible to cross the finish line of college completion. As a result, along with her husband, she has established and fully endowed four scholarships, two at FSU and two at Howard University. The FSU scholarship dearest to her, the Ellis and Dorothy York Endowed Scholarship, is a tribute to her parents, who were first-generation college graduates. In addition to her philanthropy, she has participated in medical missions worldwide, including Brazil, Guyana, South Africa, West Africa, Haiti and Cuba. After decades of witnessing women of color with persistent health disparities, she founded OG RUN. This virtual running/walking group provides daily fitness activities, support and encouragement for 300+ women in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Florida Commission on the Status of Women recognized her for her work, and she received their 2022 Community Spirit Award. Cohen is actively engaged in her community and provides fundraising leadership to the local chapters of her organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated. She resides in Apollo Beach, Fla., with her husband, George Cohen, M.D. and is the proud mother of four children and five grandchildren.



**C. Raymond Cottrell, M.D.**

*Audit  
Advancement and Donor  
Engagement*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

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.

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 the FSU Alumni Association and Seminole Boosters Board of Directors. He is an avid golfer.



**Henri W. Crockett**

*Audit  
Trusteeship and Engagement  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.*

Henri W. Crockett is the co-founder and president of the Crockett Foundation, a South Florida-based non-profit that serves youth through educational programs to build character, develop leaders and improve the community, one child at a time.

A native of Pompano Beach, Florida, Crockett earned an athletic scholarship to Florida State University, where he joined his older brother Zack as a football team member (1993 National Champions and 1993–1997 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship team). In 1997, Crockett was selected in the 4th round of the NFL draft. He played for eight years, five seasons with the Atlanta Falcons and three seasons with the Minnesota Vikings. He was a starting player with the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl XXXIII in 1999.

Shortly after being drafted by the Atlanta Falcons, Crockett founded Team 94, a non-profit that assisted at-risk youth with after-school tutoring and mentoring in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Through his effort with Team 94, Crockett was able to help several young adults achieve their dream of attending college. Crockett was so inspired by the progress and achievements of the youth enrolled in Team 94 that he sought to expand his philanthropic reach.

After being traded to the Vikings and relocating to Minnesota, Crockett co-founded the Crockett Foundation with his brother Zack. The brothers returned to their hometown of Pompano Beach, Florida, during the 2002 off-season and began hosting the annual Crockett Foundation Weekend, which included a black-tie gala, golf tournament and football camp for youth to raise money for tutoring and mentoring programs. In 2009, Crockett also created the annual Crockett Foundation Community Health Festival, bringing the Broward County community together as families prepare for the back-to-school season to educate families on the importance of maintaining good health and promoting positive lifestyle choices.

Crockett is a member of the Non-profit Executive Alliance of Broward and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and serves as president-elect of the Orange Bowl Committee. He is also a Leadership Florida Class XXXV graduate.

In 2015, Crockett was honored by the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce with the “Annual Shining Star” Award.

He was also inducted into the Broward County Sports Hall of Fame. He obtained his B.S. in criminology from Florida State University and is an active member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

His proudest accomplishment is being the father and No. 1 fan of two amazing children, whom he spends time with at sports games, music and dance recitals.



**Kristian C. Denny**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Arlington, Virginia*

Kristian Denny has 30 years of experience in strategic and crisis communications, primarily in national politics and state and federal government. During her career, she has worked in 25 states and on the national level, providing communications support and strategy for candidates, organizations and corporations. Denny created Maverick Strategies in 2007 and is considered an expert regarding the Iowa Presidential Primary caucus structure. Denny is currently an adjunct professor at Columbia University in New York City, where she teaches organizational and strategic communications in the School of International and Public Affairs. Denny resides in Arlington, Va., with her husband, daughter and son.



**Andrea K. Friall, M.D.**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Audit*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

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 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 for 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.



**Ralph R. Gonzalez, J.D.**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Finance  
  
Tequesta, Fla.*

Ralph Gonzalez is a retired attorney. He holds a B.A. from Florida State University, an MPA from Florida International University and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Miami, where he was articles editor of the University of Miami Law Review. He specialized in international mergers and acquisitions and was division general counsel at G.E. and Citigroup. He was also general counsel of American Life Insurance Company and senior corporate counsel at Raytheon. Gonzalez is a previous three-term member of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees, including serving as treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee.

He is married to Barrie Brett Gonzalez, whom he met at FSU in 1971. They have three sons and four grandsons. Ralph and Barrie reside in Tequesta, Florida, from October through May and in New Canaan, Connecticut, for the remainder of the year.



**Tim Gunning, Ph.D.**

*Audit  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Austin, Texas*

Tim Gunning is a principal and the East Region Transfer Pricing Leader in EY's International Tax and Transaction Services practice. He is based in New York City and represents clients across several industries, where he specializes in life sciences and technology.

He has a B.S. in economics from Florida State University, an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Rice University and an MBA from Yale University.

Gunning most recently served as former chair for the American Bar Association Tax Section, where he worked to promote the development of thought leadership as it relates to new developments in transfer pricing.





**Judith Hayden**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Finance*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

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 in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University 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 after receiving 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 of 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*

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

Born in Greenwood, South Carolina, 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, 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 and 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 and Sciences, the College of Music, the College of Medicine and the Theatre Patrons.



**Lee Hinkle**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

Lee Hinkle served as Florida State University's vice president for University Relations until her retirement in 2011. She was responsible for the university's communications, governmental relations, fundraising and alumni programs. Hinkle's career focused on advocacy for public policy issues affecting Florida's citizens, and her expertise included governmental affairs, political strategy, public policy development, public relations and marketing.

Her career included work for public, private and not-for-profit organizations. Before Florida State University, she served as president and CEO for Florida FREE, a political research organization, vice president of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the director of Governmental Relations for HCA-Florida and senior cabinet aide in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Her present and past affiliations include Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Board of Directors, FSU Board of Trustees vice chair (2001-03), FSU Alumni Association Life Member, Seminole Boosters, Women for FSU, Leadership Florida Class XVI, Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Capital Tiger Bay Club Board of Directors, Southern Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors, Economic Club of Florida and The Village Square Board of Directors.



**William T. Hold, Ph.D. CIC.  
CPCU. CLU**

*Ex Officio  
Presidential Appointee*

*Executive*

*Winter Park, Fla.*

Dr. William T. Hold is the co-founder and executive chairman of The National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research. The National Alliance is the largest insurance and risk management education facility in the global insurance and risk management industry. It currently offers more than 2,300 programs for some 125,000 participants annually across the United States and internationally.

He completed his undergraduate studies in risk management and finance at Florida State University in 1962, his MBA in 1964 and Ph.D. in 1967 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-M). Hold has been a faculty member at UW-M and the University of Texas at Austin (UT), where he was an associate professor responsible for the insurance and risk management area within the Graduate School of Business. In 2021, FSU awarded Hold an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

Prior to founding The National Alliance, Hold was the vice president for research and development for the National Association of Independent Insurers. His writings have included articles in insurance-related academic and trade journals. He has also authored several books on insurance and regulatory topics.

Hold has been honored by the recognition granted by FSU and various insurance and risk management industry organizations. He was inducted into the FSU College of Business Hall of Fame in 2012. In addition, FSU named the College of Business's program in risk management and insurance after him and The National Alliance. He was recognized by Insurance Newscast as one of the "100 Most Powerful People in the Insurance Industry" for six consecutive years. And in 2012, he was recognized by Property Casualty 360 as one of the "25 Living Legends in Insurance."



**Sam Huckaba, Ph.D.**

*Ex Officio  
Deans' Representative*

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

Sam Huckaba was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in October 2012 after serving for 15 months as interim dean. Prior to that he served as senior associate dean (2008-2011), and from 2004 as associate dean.

Huckaba, a native of Columbia, Mo., received his B.A. in mathematics from the University of Missouri in 1980, and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Purdue University, in Indiana, in 1986. He joined the Florida State University Department of Mathematics in 1987 as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 1998. Huckaba received University Teaching Awards in 1991 and 2002, and FSU's Developing Scholar Award in 1994.

Huckaba's research accomplishments include published work in the areas of commutative algebra and algebraic geometry, two classical areas of pure mathematics. His interests include applications of algebra, and in particular, to cryptography and coding theory. Before joining the dean's office, Huckaba participated widely in departmental administration for his home department, including four years leading the mathematics graduate program through a time of rapid growth and change.



**Christopher Iansiti**

*Chair*

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Executive  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Naples, Fla.*

Christopher Iansiti is a board member, strategic advisor, and three-time (3X) company founder with 25+ years of experience driving initiatives across operational performance improvement, culture and organizational transformation, and talent development and growth for Fortune 100 brands. He leverages his entrepreneurial spirit, visionary leadership, and business strategy as a “partner in performance” to assist individuals, teams, and organizations in reaching their highest potential. Christopher is highly regarded for his expertise in turning thoughts into action and creating organizational alignment that establishes new pathways for a stronger work culture.

Christopher began his career as a consultant with Accenture and continued on as an outside consultant to Boeing and Multiple Zones International. He then co-founded Delphi Performance Consulting Inc., where he partnered with companies to revolutionize performance of customer contact center operations. From there, Christopher formed IANSITI Performance Group, his brainchild organizational performance consulting firm, which he grew from the ground-up into revenues of over \$5 million. At IANSITI Performance Group, Christopher successfully completed over 100 projects globally and touched over 300,000 employees and leaders at well-known national and global corporations, earning him recognition on the Inc. 5000 for Fastest-Growing Private Businesses (2017).

In 2017, Christopher sold IANSITI Performance Group Inc. to TiER1 Impact, LLC, leading the transition of clients and relationships that grew 20%+ and added major clients that included Chick-fil-A, Virgin Voyages, Medtronic, Northern Trust. Christopher continued to lead business development, client relationships and revenue growth at TiER1 until completion of the acquisition.

In 2022, Christopher was elected to serve as the Board Chair for the Board of Trustees at the FSU Foundation which exists to build successful partnerships with FSU and its generous supporters across academic fundraising, donor stewardship, and financial management. As Board Chair, Christopher oversees protection of the \$1 billion endowment, as well as the work of various committees and the DEI task force to drive engagement. He also supports key areas of governance, compliance, audit and risk management, financial stewardship, and major gift fundraising.

Prior to his work for the FSU Foundation, Christopher served as the Board Chair of FSU’s College of Business Board of

Governors. He is a proud alumnus of FSU, having earned his BS in Finance and MS in Instructional Systems. He is also the recipient of various honors, which include College of Business Hall of Fame, (2023) Outstanding Alumnus of the Year (2011) by the FSU College of Education, and the Gagne/Briggs Outstanding Alumnus (2013).



**Catherine M. Johnson**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement  
Houston, Texas*

Catherine M. Johnson is an interior designer who currently practices in Houston, Texas.

Johnson is the daughter of a career military officer and was fortunate to not only travel the United States but also complete her High School requirements in Stuttgart, Germany. She received her undergraduate degree from the College of Fine Arts at Florida State University. Continuing studies took her to Harvard and Rice University, where she holds an executive MBA.

Her design practice has included both commercial and residential projects. Among her clients are several major corporations, including Exxon, USAA and Chase Bank. She has been recognized with several design awards, including The Design Excellence Award, the PRISM Award for Remodeling and recently, the FSU School of Architecture and Design Distinguished Service Award.

Johnson has served on many boards, including the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality and The Rice Design Alliance, as well as those supporting the Seminole Boosters. She established internship programs for young design students and continues to support education today with the establishment of a scholarship in her name.

She notes her husband as being instrumental in her success. He, too, is a Seminole, as are all four of her siblings.





**Jay B. Johnson**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Finance*

*Southlake, Texas*

Jay Johnson is an executive advisor and former president of Republic National Distributing Company, West Division. With over 13,000 associates and a geographic footprint in 38 states, RNDC is the second-largest beverage alcohol distributor in the United States. Johnson has been associated with RNDC for over 30 years and led the integration of Youngs Market Company, a three-billion-dollar business that RNDC purchased in July 2019.

Johnson has been on the FSU Dedman College of Hospitality board for several years and led the effort to help fund the RNDC Beverage Certificate Program Endowment. He graduated from FSU in 1987 with a B.S. in marketing. Johnson received his MBA from the University of the Incarnate Word, where he served on the development board. He currently serves on the board of the Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University and is active with his church, as well as several other charities.

Jay has been married to his wife, Dewi, for 25 years, and they have two daughters, Nicole and Lauren, who reside in Dallas, Texas.



**Robert A. Johnson**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Finance  
  
Irving, Texas*

Robert “Bob” Johnson is a senior executive with Stifel Financial, a leading publicly traded financial services firm. Johnson is responsible for Stifel’s businesses in the southwestern United States, overseeing 250 professionals managing over \$30 billion.

From 1983 to 2018, Johnson worked at Merrill Lynch, where he ran various businesses, including wealth management offices, private banking regions, middle market including debt and equity and Latin American ultra-high net worth businesses.

Johnson has spent five decades working on Wall Street, but his passion is starting new entrepreneurial ventures. In 1985, he was part of the initial capital that started Office Depot and, 12 years later, Texas Roadhouse. Since then, Johnson has provided capital and guidance to many startup organizations. He has been involved in funding companies such as Wefox, Sight Diagnostics, Ripple Foods, PandaDoc and Priority Power.

Johnson graduated with a degree in real estate from Florida State, where he met his wife. They currently reside in Dallas, Texas, but split their time between Vail, Colorado, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They have two adult children, Bobby and Olivia. In addition to the family’s many philanthropic interests, their hobbies include skiing, physical fitness and all things Florida State.



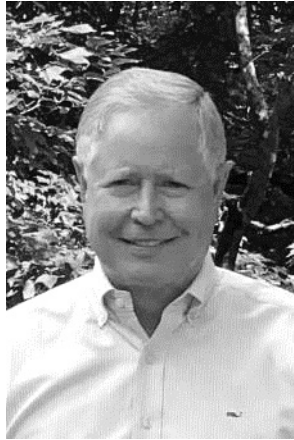
**Urielle Laurent**

*Ex Officio  
Chair  
FSU Student Foundation  
Tallahassee, Fla.*

Urielle “Uri” Laurent is a sophomore studying economics with a minor in business analytics at Florida State University. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Laurent plans to work in philanthropy or the financial sector to reshape community narratives by infusing DEI principles with hopes to elevate these sectors through innovative strategies that reflect a commitment to equality and drive tangible societal change. Laurent is also a proud past annual giving intern at the FSU Foundation and a DEI summer intern at the Knight Foundation.

As the current two-time chair of the FSU Student Foundation, Laurent leads a group of more than 40 students committed to student philanthropy on campus. Laurent is championing a stronger and more engaged group of student trustees. Before being elected chair, Laurent served as the FSU Student Foundation treasurer.

This year, she is excited to continue increasing collaboration and connections with the foundation board and the student foundation.



**James Lee, DDS**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Audit*

*Destin, Fla.*

James “Jim” Lee, DDS, retired from his general dentistry practice in Ft. Walton Beach in 2006. He graduated from Emory University School of Dentistry in 1975. Lee served on the boards of directors of the Ft. Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Okaloosa-Walton Mental Health Association (president for two terms) and Philharmonic Orchestra of Northwest Florida. He was a Stage Crafters Community Theater member, serving as musical director and pianist. Lee graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in mathematics in 1971 and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa.

Lee joined the Seminole Boosters in 1976 and has been a member ever since, currently as a Golden Chief, Bowden Society member and member of several coaches’ clubs. He became a member of the FSU Undergraduate Studies Development Council in 2010 and was chair until 2022. He endowed an Undergraduate Idea Research Award in his mother’s name and recently created an endowment for Presidential Scholars, having supported the program in the past. He is a *Vires, Artes, Mores* honoree and was inducted into the FSU Alumni Association’s Circle of Gold in 2021.



**Richard D. McCullough, Ph.D.**

*Ex Officio  
President  
Florida State University*

*Executive  
Tallahassee, Fla.*

Richard McCullough became the 16th president of Florida State University on Aug. 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 student success.

President McCullough is focused on building on Florida State University’s foundation as a Top 20 public university and pursuing a bold vision for the future. Since assuming the presidency, he has recruited world-class faculty, staff and administrators; invested in academic excellence, student success and faculty and staff; grown the university’s research portfolio; encouraged student and faculty entrepreneurial endeavors; cultivated relationships with elected officials and community leaders; enhanced fundraising efforts; and promoted athletic success.

Under McCullough’s leadership, the university launched FSU Health—one of the largest and most ambitious projects in Florida State history. This initiative will transform health care delivery, education and biomedical research in North Florida.

Prior to joining FSU, McCullough 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 overseeing 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 that led to the creation of 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 \$100 million, multi-institution collaboration to build the Advanced Biological Innovation and Manufacturing Center and Facility, known as Landmark Bio, which is 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 Startups Initiative, which 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.

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, Dr. Jai Vartikar, have two children, Jason and Dylan; daughter-in-law, Sarah Christian; and three granddaughters.



**Bruce McNeilage**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Finance*

*Brentwood, Tenn.*

Bruce W. McNeilage brings more than 34 years of financial and real estate investment experience to his role as CEO of Kinloch Partners. In the past 12 years, he has invested in hundreds of properties throughout Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina. McNeilage has also owned and developed several multi-family residential and condominium communities.

Prior to launching Kinloch Partners, McNeilage was a partner in Harpeth Development and DEL Real Estate. In 2005, he was an early pioneer of what is now commonly referred to as the “Build to Rent” industry and started building and acquiring brand new rental houses in Spring Hill, Tennessee, growing the business throughout the Nashville MSA, as well as key markets throughout the southeast United States.

McNeilage holds a B.S. in economics from Florida State University and is a past member of the FSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors. McNeilage is currently a member of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees. He is also a Chartered Financial Consultant. McNeilage is a member of the Homebuilders Association of Middle Tennessee and frequently contributes to Forbes and Think Realty magazine.

He resides in Brentwood, Tennessee, is married to Melanie McNeilage and is a father of three.



**Warner Peacock**

*Ex Officio  
Chair  
Seminole Boosters*

*Windermere, Fla.*

Warner Peacock is the Chairman and CEO of Peacock Automotive, a group of 17 dealerships located in Savannah, Ga.; Orlando, Fla.; Hardeeville, S.C., and Columbia, S.C. In addition to his expanding dealership holdings, Warner has invested in and developed properties for both himself and others all over the Southeast including car and motorcycle dealerships, casual dining restaurants, bank branches, residential communities, shopping centers and lifestyle properties.

A native of Tallahassee, Fla., Warner earned a degree in business with a major in accounting from Florida State University's College of Business. Warner resides in Palmetto Bluff, S.C., and Windermere, Fla., with his wife, Mary Kaye. They have two children who live and work in New York City, and four white labs who live at home.





**Scott G. Price, CPA, CISA,  
CIA**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Audit  
Executive  
Tampa, Fla.*

Scott Price founded A-LIGN in 2009 and is currently the company’s chief executive officer. A-LIGN is a technology-enabled cybersecurity and compliance partner trusted by organizations around the globe to mitigate cybersecurity risks by providing readiness, auditing and testing software and services. A-LIGN, a seven-time Seminole 100 honoree, helps companies navigate the complexities of cybersecurity and compliance by offering solutions that align with each organization’s unique goals and objectives across major compliance frameworks, including SOC, PCI, ISO, FedRAMP, CMMC, HITRUST and HIPAA. Prior to A-LIGN, Price was the founder of SAS 70 Solutions and served as president until 2009.

He is a 1997 graduate of Florida State University, earning both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting. While at FSU, Price served as president of the FSU Accounting Society and vice president of Delta Chi. Additionally, Price has served as chair for the Board of Governors of the Florida Institute of CPAs, was an elected member of the American Institute of CPAs Council, and is currently the board chair for Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay. Price is an FSU College of Business Board of Governors and Seminole Boosters member and an FSU Foundation President’s Club honoree. He is an avid supporter of the FSU softball team and was inducted into the College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame in 2022.



**Kyle D. Riva**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Investment*

*Winter Park, Fla.*

Throughout his 35-plus 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 25,000 multi-family living units valued at 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 Multifamily Housing Council. Riva is a member of the Florida State University executive board for the Center for Real Estate Education and Research, FSU Student Investment Fund Board, FSU Real Estate Investment Fund and member emeritus and past chairman of the board of advisors for the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins College and the President's Advisory Board.



**Jay F. Steele, J.D.**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Audit  
Executive  
Oakwood, Ga.*

Jay F. Steele is the CEO of Steele Consulting LLC, a tax consulting firm providing Fortune 1000 companies with credentialed, experienced consultants with 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**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Delray Beach, Fla.*

Aggie Stoops received her Bachelor of Social Work from FSU in 1982 and her Master of Social Work from FSU in 1983. She and her husband, Jeff (who also received two degrees from FSU), met at Cawthon Hall and have been married for 39 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. She continued to work in child welfare until the birth of their second child in 1989. Today, Aggie and Jeff have four children and eight grandchildren.

While raising her family, Stoops served as a community volunteer for 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, health care, social services, child services and COVID-19 relief. Stoops serves as chairman of the Stoops Family Foundation. Through the Stoops Family Foundation and personal giving, 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 of 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 serves as vice president and 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.



**John W. Thiel, CPA**

*Ex Officio*  
*Florida State University*  
*Board of Trustees*

*Executive*  
*Investment*

*Clearwater, Fla.*

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 CEOs in developing strategies and proactively responding to change.

Thiel is a frequent speaker, has presented at various 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.



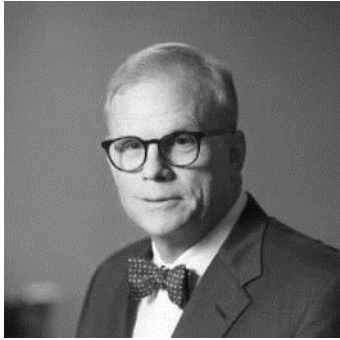
**Fred M. Tresca, CPA**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*The Woodlands, Texas*

Entrepreneur Fred Tresca is the founder and managing director of The Aberdeen Organization, where he is responsible for group operations, investments and strategy. Previously, Tresca was the co-founder, principal and managing director of the Branta Group and a partner at Price Waterhouse, where he was a founding partner of their practice in Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

Tresca is involved in various boards and committees, including the Bravo! Vail Board of Directors, Vail Valley Foundation Board of Directors, Amegy Bank Advisory Council, Montgomery County Youth Services Board of Directors, The Woodlands Methodist Church and various social clubs. He actively gives back to Florida State University through the College of Business, where he has been recognized for his service as a Charles A. Bruning Distinguished Speaker. Tresca is also a member of the College of Business Board of Governors and was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in 2015.



**Ashbel C. Williams Jr.**

*Investment  
Executive*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

Ashbel C. Williams Jr. is the vice chair at J.P. Morgan Asset Management. With assets under management of \$2.7 trillion, the firm is a global leader in investment management.

Before joining J.P. Morgan Asset Management in 2022, Williams was executive director and chief investment officer of the Florida State Board of Administration, with over \$250 billion in assets. Previously, he was a managing director at Fir Tree Partners and president and CEO of Schroder Capital Management. Earlier in his career, he held senior roles in the executive and legislative branches of Florida state government, including initial leadership of the SBA from 1991–96.

Williams is a trustee of the Florida State University Foundation and the National Institute for Public Finance. He serves on the investment committees of the IEEE and the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. He also serves on the board of the Economic Club of Florida, is a Hull Fellow of the Pacific Pension and Investment Institute and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Williams received a B.S. and an MBA degree from Florida State University. He has established the Ashbel Williams Scholarship funds and has been very supportive of the College of Business. Ash and his wife, Jan, are recognized at the Honors level of the Florida State University Foundation's President's Club.



**Brian K. Williams**

*Ex Officio  
FSU Board of Trustees Designee*

*Executive  
Duluth, Ga.*

Brian K. Williams is the founder, CEO and manager of Crown Asset Management, LLC. CAM is an Atlanta-based specialty finance company established in 2004. CAM's primary business focuses on acquiring, managing and recovering non-performing consumer assets. Williams has been directly involved in the purchase and sale of more than \$10 billion of face value in receivables. As a strong advocate for his company and the ARM industry, he sits on the Board of Directors for the Receivables Management Association International (RMAi) and holds the position of secretary.

After graduating from Florida State University in 1997 with a B.S. in finance, Williams began his career at Merrill Lynch. He later moved to First Union National Bank/First Union Securities in Atlanta before eventually starting CAM. He remains active as an FSU alumnus and proud Seminole Boosters member, having served on the Seminole Boosters Board of Directors for six years. Currently, he serves on the FSU College of Business Board of Governors, the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship Advisory Board and most recently, the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Brian and his wife, Cortney (also an FSU graduate), reside in Brookhaven, Georgia, with their two children, Rush and Reagan, and their dog, Bo.





**Marilyn J. Young, Ph.D.**

*Advancement and Donor  
Engagement  
Trusteeship and Engagement*

*Tallahassee, Fla.*

Dr. Marilyn Young retired in 2005 as the Florida State University Wayne C. Minnick Professor of Communication, Emerita. She taught at FSU for 33 years, serving as debate coach and director of forensics from 1972 to 1985. During her tenure at FSU, Young received numerous teaching excellence and service awards, including the Teaching Incentive Program Award in 1995 and the Professorial Excellence Award in 1998. In 2001, she was named the Minnick Professor in recognition of her work as a teacher, scholar and citizen of the university. In addition to chairing numerous university committees, Young served as chair of her department, two terms as president of the Faculty Senate, and 15 years on the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. She continues to serve as parliamentarian for the Faculty Senate. She received the Fred L. Standley Distinguished Service Professor Award in 2005 and was honored with the Vires Torch Award in 2012.

In retirement, Young established the Marilyn J. Young Endowment for Intercollegiate Debate to ensure that FSU's 120-year legacy of debate will benefit future generations of students. To that end, she continues to work with the FSU Foundation to grow the debate endowment. In addition, Young is a member of the College of Communication and Information Leadership Board, president of the Association of Retired Faculty and co-chair of the Faculty Senate Torch Awards Committee. In 2021, she was inducted into the Alumni Association's Circle of Gold.

As an undergraduate at FSU (B.A. '64), Young was a member of the debate team, the Tau Kappa Alpha Forensics Honorary, and Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi academic honor societies. She earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in communication from the University of Pittsburgh and taught at California State University, Los Angeles, before joining the FSU faculty in 1972. In 1994, she and her husband, Dr. Michael Launer, founded RussTech Language Services, specializing in technical translation and interpreting for nuclear safety and security, a business they sold in 2019. Young has continued her research activity, focusing on the development of political communication in post-Soviet Russia. She has published eight books and numerous essays and has presented papers all over the world.