Trustee Directory

As of September 3, 2018
Donna Abood is one of the most trusted and highly-recognized names in South Florida real estate. She serves as 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 and 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 tenants she has represented.

Previously, Abood served as chairman and founding partner of Colliers International South Florida, which was formed in 2002. Prior to 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 & Visually Impaired, Real Estate Institute and College of Business at Florida State University. Abood is also a foundation member of Baptist Health.
Todd Adams was born in New York where most of his extended family still resides. They moved to Ohio when he was 3 and he grew up outside of Columbus until after graduating from high school. He attended Hope College in Michigan for four years and finished his graduate work (PhD) at University of Notre Dame in spring, 1997. He worked for Kansas State University as a research associate for 4 years. He now teaches at Florida State University.

Adams’ current research is focused on the compact muon solenoid (CMS) experiment at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). The CMS collaboration studies proton-proton collisions at the world's highest energies ever achieved in a lab. Adams’ particular interest is the search for new particles, especially long-lived particles that may have been missed elsewhere.

Adams previously worked on the DZero experiment at Fermi National Accelerator Lab, where he concentrated on searches for new particles, top quark physics, trigger development, and simulations. The DZero collaboration studied proton-anti-proton collision using the Tevatron accelerator.

Previous research involved neutrino interactions, as part of Fermilab Experiment 815, NuTeV. He also worked on Monte Carlo studies of vertex detection at a future next linear collider.
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 B.A. in Music Education. She went on to receive a degree in mathematics from Columbia University and a masters in mathematics and statistics from Purdue University, as well as taking graduate courses from IBM in mathematics and computing.
Kathryn Ballard has a long history of charitable and community work, including service on the Florida Special Olympics Board of Directors, the Florida State University College of Human Sciences Board and the Maclay School of Tallahassee Board of Trustees. Ballard also served as Chairman of Maclay School Capital Campaign.

A lifelong FSU fan, Ballard has been honored for Outstanding Achievement by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tallahassee/Leon County Historic Preservation Commission for her efforts to restore Tallahassee's historic Lively House.

Ballard graduated from Florida State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science from the College of Human Sciences.

Kathryn Ballard

Ex Officio
Florida State University
Board of Trustees

Executive
Tallahassee, Fla.
Brett Braciak has been president and owner of BKB Properties Inc. in Clearwater, Fla., since 1992. He is an active investor and developer of commercial real estate. Braciak has been involved with companies and partnerships that have bought, sold and developed raw land; owned and managed apartment buildings; and developed and redeveloped shopping centers, strip centers, free-standing buildings, ground leases, office buildings, retail stores and industrial buildings. He has experience working with bankers, insurers, city planners, inspectors, architects, contractors, engineers, surveyors and environmental agencies.

Prior to founding BKB Properties, Braciak was with Automatic Data Processing, Enterprise Leasing Company and KPMG.

Braciak received a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University in 1983. He is a lifetime member of the Florida State Alumni Association, Seminole Boosters and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.
Keith D. Carr founded Forefront Consulting LLC in 2001 and is currently the company’s principal. Forefront is a Florida-based consulting, research and advisory services 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 that specializes in technology-enabled identity theft prevention and resolution products and services for consumers and financial, health care and educational institutions.

Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, Carr worked nearly 10 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 & Criminal Justice. He has served as a guest speaker at numerous national conferences and meetings and at the annual FSU Ring Ceremony. He is a life member and past vice president of the Florida State Alumni Association and was also past president of the FSU Black Alumni Association. Carr is a current board member of the FSU College of Criminology & Criminal Justice, as well as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Marching Chiefs. He resides in Orlando, Fla., with his wife, Nutoshia, and daughter, Honnah.
Dean L. Cash has lived in San Francisco since 1977. He joined ATEL Capital Group in 1981 as the director of Marketing, was appointed executive vice president in 1983 and became a director in 1984. In 2000, he purchased a majority interest in ATEL and became its chairman and CEO. Over the past four decades, Cash provided the leadership to grow ATEL into a multibillion dollar financial services company, providing equipment leasing to Fortune 1000 companies and venture debt to emerging growth companies.

Prior to his career with ATEL, Cash was a systems engineer with Electronic Data Systems. He later worked for General Electric Corporation, installing computerized patient records systems around North America. Cash graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and math followed by an MBA from Florida State University.

Cash is a member of the San Francisco Symphony Board of Governors and also serves on the board of directors of the Gangagen Corporation, a biotech company researching new treatments for antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

He and his wife established The ATEL Foundation, a private philanthropic organization dedicated to providing funding to groups that seek to better the lives of citizens in their respective communities.
Tim Cole recently retired from Del Monte Foods as the executive vice president of sales. He joined Del Monte in September 2004 and was responsible for all segments of the Del Monte Foods banner, including Del Monte Brands and pet products.

Prior to Del Monte, Cole was with the Quaker Oats Company/PepsiCo since 1979 and held a variety of sales positions throughout his 25 year career with the company. Before leaving, he was in charge of national accounts and played a major leadership role in integrating the Quaker sales organization into PepsiCo. Prior to that role, he directed $3 billion in U.S. sales for all Quaker brands, including Gatorade and Tropicana.

Cole is a member of the Western Association of Food Chains Illuminators and GMA Sales Committee.

Cole graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in marketing. He is a board member of the FSU College of Business Board of Governors and the Junior Achievement of the Bay Area, as well as a consultant to United Way of the Bay Area.
Peter Collins is co-founder and managing principal of Forge Capital Partners, LLC. He directs all private equity activities for Forge and is the CEO of Forge’s real estate private equity fund business. Over the past 15 years, Collins has overseen more than $1.5 billion of real estate and corporate transactions, including more than seven million square feet of commercial, office and multi-family residential real estate.

Prior to co-founding Forge, Collins spent five years as managing director at Rock Creek Capital, one of the southeast’s largest private equity firms.

Prior to Rock Creek Capital, Collins served as a manager with the Florida State Board of Administration in Tallahassee, Fla. Collins also served four years as chief of staff to Florida State Sen. Charles Williams.

Collins is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer on private equity and real estate across the country. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute, trustee for the Boys Scouts of America National Foundation and chairs its Investment Committee. In January of 2013, Collins was appointed by the trustees of the State Pension Fund and confirmed by the Florida Senate for a four-year term to the Advisory Board of the State of Florida Pension Fund.

Collins earned his B.S. in finance as well as an MBA from the Florida State University College of Business.
Thomas M. Culligan recently retired as senior vice president of Business Development and Strategy for Raytheon Company. Culligan was also concurrently the chairman and chief executive officer of Raytheon International Inc. He held these positions from March 2001 until December 2013.

Raytheon Company is an innovation technology leader with sales of approximately $24 billion and 60,000 employees, doing business in more than 85 countries.

Culligan was responsible both for worldwide sales and marketing and for developing and leading the execution of Raytheon's business strategy. During his tenure as senior vice president, Culligan was responsible for Raytheon's offshore businesses in the United Kingdom, Australia and Thales Raytheon Systems Ltd., the only trans-Atlantic defense joint venture.

Prior to March 2001, Culligan was vice president and general manager of Defense and Space at Honeywell International Inc., with worldwide responsibility for all related sales, marketing and government relations. He previously directed the company's aerospace operations in Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Africa and was the regional senior executive based in Paris, France. He also held line management and profit and loss responsibilities for the company's defense aftermarket business and its technical services subsidiary, Honeywell Technology Solutions.

Previously, Culligan was vice president of Government Operations with Allied Signal Corp. He also held positions with McDonnell Douglas, including corporate vice president of Program Development and Marketing and vice president and general manager of Government Affairs.

Earlier, Culligan was legislative director for Florida Congressman Earl Hutto and chief of staff for Florida's Secretary of State.

Culligan earned both a Bachelor of Arts in government in 1973 and an M.P.A. in 1977 from Florida State University. He also attended professional courses at the Kennedy School at Harvard University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Culligan served in the U.S. Air Force after receiving his ROTC commission.
Carlton R. DiSalvo, a fourth generation FSU Seminole, has been in and around Florida State University for his entire upbringing. Born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida, he attended Leon High School.

While there, he served as the high school's Student Body President and sat as the student representative to the Leon County School Board. In his time as a political science student at Florida State, he has been a part of the 68th and 69th Student Senates, an executive board member on the Power of We Initiative, and currently serves as the Chairman of the FSU Student Foundation.

Carlton R. DiSalvo

Ex officio
Chair, FSU Student Foundation

Tallahassee, Fla.
Julie Dunn Eichenberg is vice president of brand distribution for Turner Content Distribution, the domestic distribution and marketing arm of Turner. Based in Atlanta, she leads the linear television and on-demand programming distribution, business development, digital distribution and marketing efforts with key accounts in the U.S. and in Canada for Turner’s 10 linear news and entertainment networks.

Eichenberg spent the past 21 years with Turner in a variety of roles within the distribution division and was previously employed by Convergys. Her career started as a leadership consultant for Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority. Raised near Daytona Beach, Florida, Eichenberg earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University in 1994 and currently serves on the Seminole Torchbearers board. Eichenberg was inducted into FSU’s Circle of Gold in 2017.

A member of Women in Cable & Telecommunications, Eichenberg is committed to supporting women in advancing and thriving professionally and personally. She serves on the board of Turner Women, a company-wide business resource group committed to leveraging the talents of female employees. Eichenberg also serves as chair of the Gamma Phi Beta Foundation—an organization whose mission is to support the lifelong development of women—leading a 14-member Board of Trustees and directing the staff based in Centennial, Colorado. Eichenberg was a member of Class XXVIII of WICT’s Betsy Magness Leadership Institute and a 2008 graduate of Cable Executive Management program at Harvard Business School.

Eichenberg is also passionately involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, promoting CF awareness and fundraising throughout the state of Georgia. She helped raise millions of dollars in the search for a cure, serving as co-chair of sponsorship for the annual CF Wine & Roses Gala. She has been recognized with the Momentum Award and the Heart of Gold Award for record-breaking fundraising.

As a student at FSU, Eichenberg was a member and leader of Gamma Phi Beta, Gold Key (now Garnet and Gold Key), Student Alumni Association, Order of Omega, the Student Senate and founding member of Burning Spear. In addition, she was Panhellenic Association president and senior class secretary. Eichenberg was named 1993 Sorority Woman of the Year and received the Seminole Leadership Award. She was selected in 1994 for Gold Key’s Hall of Fame.
Andrea D. Friall, M.D.

Audit
Donor Stewardship
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 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.
Jeff 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.
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 nonprofit 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 multinational 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.”
Anne Hamilton, a veteran of the meetings industry with more than 30 years of experience, literally “grew up” in the hotel and hospitality industry. She started working in the hotel business at the age of ten, performing various roles in hotels owned by her father. This experience set the groundwork for her formal education, which includes a bachelor’s degree from the Florida State University Dedman School of Hospitality and an MBA from Stetson University.

As vice president of Global Travel for the Walt Disney Company, Hamilton provides essential operational strategic leadership for her teams who serve the needs of traveling cast members on a global basis for the Walt Disney Company and its subsidiaries. Hamilton oversees multiple site travel operations teams at three U.S. locations and multiple co-source travel service providers in three international locations. Her teams execute the ongoing management of commercial and charter airlines, hotels and transportation vendor agreements. They drive direction for the management of technology enabled travel solutions and the overall maintenance of Disney’s travel policy, compliance and related reporting.

Prior to leading the Global Travel team, Hamilton was vice president of Resort Sales and Services for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. She has been with Disney for 19 years and has served in various positions in the meeting industry. Currently, she serves on the Education Foundation Board of Trustees for Professional Convention Management Association, International Board of Director for Meeting Professionals International and Meetings Mean Business with U.S. Travel Association. Hamilton remains active with Florida State University, presently serving on its Foundation Board of Trustees. In recognition of her industry contributions, Hamilton has been named an ASAE Fellow, honored as Florida State University Dedman Hospitality School Alumnae of the Year and PCMA Supplier of the Year.
Marion Taormina Hargett is the Senior Vice President of NCC media, the only media, data and technology company that represents video programming providers in every US market. In this newly created role, she will be responsible for leading the agency strategy for the advanced advertising group allowing brands and agencies the unique ability to reach today’s consumers in premium programming and in targeted online content across every screen.

Prior to joining NCC, Marion served as the Senior Vice President of Olympics and Sports Sales for NBC Owned Television Stations, the division of NBCUniversal that oversees the 11 NBC television stations and 28 Telemundo stations the company owns as well as its associated online and digital out-of-home properties. In this role, Hargett lead cross-platform sales and marketing strategies for some of the country’s biggest sporting events on NBC and Telemundo including the Olympic Games and World Cup as well as the NFL, NHL, Premiere league, PGA golf and Regional Sports Networks.

Hargett joined NBCUniversal in 2002 as Director of Business Development. In this role, she built customized marketing strategies around key tentpole events at NBC, including the Golden Globes, the EMMY Awards, Premiere Week and Christmas at Rockefeller Center. Hargett then spent two years as Director of Olympic Sales and was then promoted in 2006 to Vice President of Olympics and Sports and again in 2012 to her current role. Her team helped execute the most successful Olympics sales effort in the history of the NBC Owned Stations division at the Summer Rio Games as well as creating original programming with the OZONE show which was carried in 99 markets across the country.

Before joining NBCUniversal, Hargett was Director of Business Development for Clear Channel where she created and managed marketing deals with multiple platforms of 1400 radio stations, Clear Channel Concerts and Clear Channel Outdoor.

Hargett has been recognized numerous times for her sales leadership and success. She received her BA in Communications and Education from Florida State University where she currently serves as on The Foundation Board of Trustees and has previously served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Seminole Torchbearers Board 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 Scalphunters.
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, he 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. He 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.

Dean Hartline earned a Ph.D. in business administration from the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis, and a MBA and bachelor's in marketing, both from Jacksonville State University (Alabama).
John Thomas “Tom” Herndon's state government career spans more than 32 years. He has served at the highest levels of management in Florida administration, including key positions in the executive branch, the Legislature and the Cabinet.

Herndon has received several state and national public service awards, including the prestigious Florida Distinguished Service Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service to the State in 1995. A Florida native, Herndon is a graduate of the University of South Florida and earned a master's degree at Florida State University. Herndon is very active in the Tallahassee community and currently serves on the boards of Capital Health Plan, the Claude Pepper Foundation, the Lawton Chiles Foundation and the Florida State University Foundation.
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.
With 36 years of successful banking and financial services experience combined with more than 25 years in nonprofit leadership, Nan Hillis is known for demonstrating a broad range of institutional experience, building high-performance teams, creating cultures of partnership and trust, and maintaining exceptional executive management skills. During her career as a financial executive, Hillis has been part of senior leadership teams that have either created highly effective and efficient groups or revitalized underperforming divisions. In addition, she has been active in nonprofit organizations by providing strategic leadership with a focus on financial stability and senior team development.

Hillis most recently retired as the executive vice president and chief strategy officer of Prime Meridian Bank in Tallahassee. Prior to that, she had spent 10 years with BB&T as city executive coincident with the group’s first acquisition in Florida in 2002. Four years later, she was promoted to regional president and was an integral part of the leadership team that significantly expanded the Florida market presence during a very difficult economic period.

Hillis also led a team of commercial lenders who changed Bank South from a nonperforming institution to an acquisition candidate that proved to be highly sought after. It was subsequently sold to NationsBank and later to Bank of America.

Her passion for contributing to the community includes 25 years of working with various nonprofit entities. Her focus has been leadership in organizations that support youth and education. For the past 18 years, Hillis has served on the board of directors for the Girl Scouts of Northwest Georgia and the Girl Scouts of the USA. During her tenure, she actively led numerous successful fundraising campaigns and provided leadership during the organization’s transformation. At Florida State her impact has been ubiquitous all across campus and beyond, including service as chair of the College of Business Board of Governors, and chair of the Foundation Board of Trustees Audit Committee. Currently, Hillis serves on the Florida State University Heritage Museum Advisory Board, FSU College of Business Past President’s Council, FSU Veterans Advancement Board, and on FSU Alumni Association Ambassadors.

Hillis engages her local community by serving as a member of the City of Tallahassee Investment Advisory Committee, and on the Trinity United Methodist Church’s Investment Committee. In the past she served as the Chair of Task Force on Concurrency for the Tallahassee Economic Development Council.

Hillis earned her Bachelor of Science in business administration from Florida State University and majored in finance and marketing. She is an alumni advisor for the Alpha Eta Chapter of Delta Delta Delta Sorority and a lifetime member. Her husband, Mark Hillis is a 1964 graduate of Florida State University. They are both members of Vires, Artes, Mores Sapphire Society, a university-wide donor recognition society.
Dr. Bill 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.
Paul Hudson is the Sarasota-based market leader for Northern Trust Corporation. Hudson leads activities involving sales, holistic advice and client servicing across Sarasota and Manatee counties.

Hudson brings with him over 20 years of wealth management experience including 16 years with Northern Trust as a Sarasota-based wealth strategist. For the past five years he was the managing director for U.S. Trust in Sarasota. Hudson is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in Finance and a graduate of the Cannon Trust School. He is a lifetime member of the FSU Alumni Association.

Hudson is deeply involved in his community and has served as a board or committee member with many organizations, including: The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Historic Spanish Point, Arts Center Sarasota, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Venice Public Library, Florida State University Foundation, Education Foundation of Sarasota, Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council, Rotary Club of Sarasota, Southwest Florida Planned Giving Council, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, American Heart Association, The Pines of Sarasota, Holy Cross Associates and Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care.
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 for the FSU College of Business Board of Governors.
Tom Jennings became vice president for University Advancement at Florida State University and president of the FSU Foundation in September 2010. In this role, Jennings leads the University’s fund-raising, alumni relations, advancement services and real estate activities, overseeing the FSU Alumni Association, FSU Foundation, FSU Real Estate Foundation and the Seminole Boosters. The FSU Foundation and Seminole Boosters also hold and manage more than $500 million in endowment assets. Florida State is engaged in the public phase of a $1 billion comprehensive fund-raising campaign, which Jennings oversees.

Prior to coming to FSU, Jennings served as assistant vice president for Development at the University of Virginia. During more than eight years with UVA, Jennings served previously as associate dean for Development in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. At Arts & Sciences, Jennings led the strategic planning and implementation of a $500 million comprehensive campaign. Before that, he worked in fund-raising roles for ten years at Washington & Lee University (Lexington, VA), serving ultimately as director of University Development.

Jennings is a respected leader within the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, delivering numerous presentations at CASE conferences and serving as co-chair for the CASE District III annual conference in 2012.

A native of Delaware, Jennings earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in psychology from James Madison University and his Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Virginia.
Peter Jones joined Franklin Templeton Investments in 1989 and oversees retail and institutional distribution for the United States and Canada.

Before joining Franklin Templeton, Jones was president of IDEX Distributors, now a part of Transamerica Funds, from 1984 to 1988. He was also with Price Waterhouse from 1977 to 1984 as a CPA and tax manager.

Jones earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Florida State University. He is the former chairman of the Investment Company Institute’s Sales Force Marketing Committee and former vice-chairman of the Mutual Fund Education Alliance.
David B. Lane serves as the chief operating officer of Terlato Wines International.

With 17 years’ experience in the premium wine industry, coupled with a keen understanding of the luxury wine market, Lane has driven strategies to maximize the strength of the Terlato portfolio, which comes from the world's most renowned wine regions and producers. He was named chief operating officer in 2008 after previously serving as the company's chief marketing officer.

Balancing the quality of the Terlato portfolio with break-through consumer outreach, Lane developed a firm understanding of who luxury consumers are and has effectively created emotional connections with TWI brands and wineries. Since joining Terlato, Lane has spearheaded several new brand launches and re-launches while enabling top-line revenue growth of more than $50 million.

Lane began his career in the wine industry in 1991, when E. & J. Gallo Winery recruited him after he graduated from Florida State University. He rose through progressively more important assignments in North Carolina and Florida, and five years later, he was appointed Gallo's Fine Wine sales manager for the Southeastern United States. Lane went on to become on-premise division manager for Florida.

After gaining a spectrum of sales experience, Lane shifted his focus to marketing in 1999 to hone his brand-building expertise. While at Gallo headquarters, he grew Italy's Ecco Domani into the company's No. 1 volume, premium-priced brand. He accomplished this while launching Gallo's first import division with the successful creation and launch of brands including Bella Sera from Italy and Australia's Black Swan. Lane left Gallo after serving as senior director for its Premium Wine Portfolio. He is credited with doubling revenue and profitability for business units he led at the company from 1999-2005.

In addition to receiving a bachelor's degree from Florida State in 1991, Lane holds a Master of Business Administration in marketing and international business from Duke University.
Stuart Lasher is founder, chairman and CEO of Quantum Capital Partners based in Tampa, Fla. Quantum was founded in 1998 by Lasher, and the company provides capital for privately owned, rapidly-growing businesses, primarily in the southeastern United States.

Lasher is a licensed CPA with more than 20 years of experience performing audits in a variety of industries and has assisted in many mergers and acquisitions.

In addition to his position at Quantum, Lasher is chairman of the board of PDQ Southern Texas, member of the board of directors for Fitlife Foods, and an investor, board member and chair of the Audit Committee for Life Time Fitness.

Lasher was honored as a finalist for Entrepreneur of the Year in 1996, awarded by Ernst & Young. His company was named the 57th fastest growing company in 1995 by Inc. Magazine and named Business of the Year in 1996 by the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce.

Lasher recently committed a major contribution to the College of Business to name a lecture room in Legacy Hall. He was inducted into the college’s Hall of Fame in 2017.

Lasher is active in his community, local and national charities and his synagogue.
William C. Lloyd is co-owner and president of RKM Development Corp., a full-service, retail development company, specializing in build-to-suit single-tenant projects, neighborhood and regional retail shopping centers. With locations in St. Petersburg, Fla., Birmingham, Ala., and Raleigh, N.C., RKM averages more than $40 million in projects each year.

Lloyd joined RKM in 1989. In 1999, he became partner and president. With experience in all aspects of development, from site selection and leasing to entitlements and financing, he has grown RKM into a Southeastern retail development leader. His accomplishments include completing more than $750 million in retail projects for tenants such as Publix, Walgreens, Eckerd Drugs, Hobby Lobby, TJ Maxx, Petco, Sweet Bay, Food Lion, Aldi, Circle K, Goodwill, CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar and O’Reilly Auto Parts.

Prior to joining RKM, Lloyd worked with Equitec, a California-based real estate investment trust, managing their Florida portfolio, which consists of both retail and office investments. He also has two years of leasing and property management experience and two years of experience as a commercial appraiser.

Lloyd currently serves on the executive boards of the Florida State University Center for Real Estate Education & Research, the Cardinal Mooney High School Fundraising Committee and the East Manatee Youth Football Association.

While at FSU, Lloyd was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and the FSU Water Ski Team.
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.
Stephanie Lynch, managing director and co-founder of Global Endowment Management, leads the firm’s investor service efforts and is responsible for the firm’s marketing, communication and business development. Prior to her position with GEM, Stephanie served eight years as chief investment officer for The Duke Endowment, the $3.3 billion family foundation of James B. Duke. She has served also as a portfolio manager at INVESCO Capital Management and Trade Street Investment Services.

Stephanie is currently a trustee of the Novant Health Foundation Presbyterian Medical Center. She is a director of Novant Asset Management Co. and the Crossnore School Children’s Foundation; she is also a member of the finance committee for the Baby J Fund, a private foundation supporting research for pediatric cancers.

Stephanie received her Bachelor of Science in finance from Florida State University and is a chartered financial analyst.
Born and raised in suburban Philadelphia, Robert B. Mang has served in various merchandising and management capacities.

His experience in retail department stores included Richs in Atlanta, Burdines in Miami and John Wanamaker in Philadelphia before he became president and chief executive officer of Broadway Southwest; president of The Bon Marche in Seattle; and president, chairman and chief executive officer of Woodward & Lothrop/John Wanamaker in Washington, D.C.

Subsequently, Mang was vice chairman of DFS Group Limited, chief executive officer of Monet Group Inc. in New York City and chief executive officer of Galyan's Trading Co.

He has served on the board of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce; Patrons of Northwest Civic, Cultural and Charitable Organizations; Mid-Atlantic Adventist HealthCare; Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association; National Retail Federation; Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Sur La Table, as well as the boards of Woodward and Lothrop, Monet Group Inc., Addwater.com, Christopher & Banks and Gaylan's Trading Co.

He currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Florida State University College of Business.

Mang graduated from Florida State University in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in marketing and business management.
Tom McAlpin has joined Virgin Cruises as CEO and will lead the organization’s management team. Prior to joining Virgin, McAlpin was president and CEO of *The World*, the largest privately owned residential yacht with 165 luxury residences. As CEO, McAlpin was responsible for leading the organization and managing the strategic direction of *The World*, including key assets and relevant functions such as customer service, guest satisfaction, sales and training to ensure best-in-class service delivery.

A veteran in the cruise line industry with more than 25 years of domestic and international experience in ship management and operations, McAlpin spent 14 years at Disney Cruise Line, most recently as president. He was responsible for Disney’s successful launch into the cruise industry and led its expansion efforts to add two additional ships to the fleet.

Prior to joining Disney, McAlpin was director of Corporate Planning and Analysis for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line/Admiral Cruises for eight years. He began his career with KPMG and also served as chief financial officer of CSB Leasing Company for three years.

McAlpin is a member of Florida State University’s College of Business Board of Governors; he has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida’s Rosen College of Hospitality and is a former member of their advisory board. He holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance from Florida State University and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Miami.

An organization close to McAlpin’s heart is the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where he was a National Board member from 2006-2012 and served as its national board chair in 2012. McAlpin became involved in the Make-A-Wish Foundation while at Disney, where he saw first-hand the impact of the foundation’s work. He uses his business skills to broaden the awareness of Make-A-Wish activities and continue the foundation’s growth.
Nancy McKay is the chief executive officer of NEST Fragrances, a boutique luxury fragrance company. NEST has experienced substantial growth in multiple channels and continues to elevate in importance as a fragrance-forward American brand.

Prior to being appointed CEO, McKay was general manager and senior vice president of the Estee Lauder brand, Tom Ford Beauty and AERIN Beauty for North America at The Estee Lauder Companies, Inc. As a 25-year beauty industry veteran, McKay is well-known for being both a brand and team builder. Her key accomplishments include growing and strengthening the many brands with which she has been associated, which, in addition to Estee Lauder, Tom Ford Beauty and AERIN Beauty, include Clinique, Donna Karan, Tommy Hilfiger and Michael Kors Fragrances.

A firm believer in developing talent, McKay serves on the Board of Governors for the Fashion Scholarship Fund and is the Florida State University Ambassador for the organization. Additionally, she serves as a student mentor in the FIT Graduate Program in Cosmetics & Toiletries. McKay is newly appointed to the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees and previously served on the Board of Governors for the FSU College of Human Sciences. In May 2016, McKay was honored by the FSU Alumni Association and Women for FSU with the inaugural Inspire Award for FSU Women of Distinction.
Wayne A. Messam

Finance
Trusteeship

Miramar, Fla.

Wayne Messam is a first-generation American, born in the United States to Jamaican parents. Messam is now a licensed general contractor and a LEED-accredited professional in Miramar, Fla. His company, Asset Builders, is currently building and managing some of the most exciting “green” construction projects in America.

In 2015, Messam was elected mayor of Miramar, Fla. Previously, he had served on the Miramar City Commission. He is on the National League of Cities Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Steering Committee, has served two terms as chair of the Broward County Small Business Development Advisory Board and formerly served as vice-chair of Miramar's Planning and Zoning Board.

Messam attended FSU with full athletic and academic scholarships, and he excelled both on and off the football field. Besides being a starting wide receiver and a member of the 1993 national championship football team under coach Bowden, Messam was elected student body vice-president by his peers during his senior year. He was named the Black Alumni Association “Student of the Year” in 1996 for his exceptional accomplishments as a student-athlete. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in management information systems in 1997.

Messam’s other activities include time spent as an optimist football coach, as vice-chair of the board of trustees for his church and as a member of his local school advisory council.
Francis J. “Frank” Nardozza is chairman and chief executive officer of REH Capital Partners LLC, a national real estate and hospitality investment and advisory services firm headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Nardozza has more than 35 years of diversified experience in real estate and hospitality investment, finance and consulting. He is recognized nationally and internationally for his work in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, investment, development and strategic advisory services in the fields of real estate and hospitality, and he has advised on more than $15 billion in real estate and hospitality transactions throughout his professional career.

Prior to launching REH in 2001, Nardozza was a partner and served as the national and global real estate and hospitality consulting practice leader for KPMG LLP and KPMG Consulting Inc., two entities comprising one of the world’s largest professional services firms. His tenure with KPMG spanned a period of more than 25 years.

Nardozza is the founding chairperson of the U.S. Lodging Industry Investment Council and currently serves on the Executive Advisory Committee of New York University Hotel Investment Program and the Executive Planning Board of the Americas Lodging Investment Summit. He also is active with many other industry programs and forums, including the Urban Land Institute, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the American Resort and Residential Development Association and others.

He is a member of the Executive Advisory Board of the Real Estate Program of Florida State University and has established and endowed the Nardozza Real Estate Scholars Program at Florida State University. Nardozza is a 2013 Hall of Fame inductee to the Florida State University College of Business. He is vice chairman of the board of directors of Hope Outreach Center Inc. in Broward County.

Nardozza is a CPA and earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Florida State University in 1977. Additionally, he has completed the executive partner certificate program on international business at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in May 1993.
Stacey Pierre is a student at Florida State University and serves as the Student Body President. She joined the FSU community in the summer of 2015 through her involvement in the CARE Summer Bridge Program.

Stacey is a current Biology major with the hopes of one day becoming an obstetrician and serving the community. Additionally, some of her hobbies include reading, scrolling through Youtube, exercising. She is excited to work together with faculty, staff, and administrator to help further Florida State University into a leading institute of higher education through her role as Student Body President.
Sean Pittman is the Senior Partner of Pittman Law Group, P.L., which specializes in the areas of government, administrative, and corporate law.

Attorney Pittman represents a diverse client list of individuals, local governments, small businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. Sean 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, Sean represents Florida counties and municipalities before the Florida Cabinet, Florida Legislature, and other tribunals. As an administrative lawyer, Sean 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. Sean also provides counsel to local government clients on issues related to Public Finance Law.

The Tallahassee Democrat named Sean 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. Sean is ranked one of the "Top 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics" by Influence magazine and Florida Trend magazine says Sean is "one to look for" in the new wave of politics in Florida while listing him as a "Must Know Contact" in Tallahassee. Sean has also been inducted into the Tallahassee Barristers Hall of Fame.

Sean 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 on the Florida State University Board of Trustees. For his philanthropic endeavors, Sean was awarded the Tallahassee Servant Leadership Award by Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the 2015 Distinguished Member Award by Leadership Florida. Sean 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.

Sean 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 is a partner with the firm EY (formerly Ernst and Young) and has 26 years of experience with the organization. Currently, he is located in EY’s Tampa office, but during his career he has served in the Orlando and Memphis offices.

He has served organizations in all stages of growth, from start-ups to large publicly-held companies. His primary area of expertise is in the health care field. His health care experience includes for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals, urban and suburban multi-hospital systems, managed-care organizations and long-term care companies. He also serves companies in the retail, shipping and service industries.

Poland is actively involved in recruiting for EY. He currently serves as the campus coordinating partner for the firm’s recruiting efforts at Florida A&M University and Florida State University.

Poland has a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University. His professional memberships include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Healthcare Financial Management Association. He is a member of the Professional Advisory Board for the Department of Accounting at Florida State University, the FSU College of Business Board of Governors, the Hillsborough Education Foundation Board of Directors and a past member of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
Sherrill Williams Ragans is a native Georgian. She came to Florida State in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in history from Tift College—now known as Tift College of Mercer University—and a master's in student personnel from the University of Southern Mississippi. She first served as a hall director at FSU, and she later served as director of Housing and as assistant vice president for Student Affairs. Ragans was appointed associate vice president for Student Affairs in 1988 and served that year as interim vice president for Student Affairs. She is especially proud to have been an initiator and leader as FSU developed its commitment to increased attention to student civic engagement. She retired in 2003.

Ragans has served many organizations as a volunteer and board member, including Mercer University, the United Way of the Big Bend and Leon County's PACE Center for Girls. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the state-wide board of trustees for the PACE Center For Girls. Since retirement, she has continued to connect with FSU as a board member of the Hardee Center for Leadership and Ethics in Higher Education and as a docent for FSU's heritage program. Ragans is currently chairing the Women for Florida State University Executive Committee.

Mercer University awarded her an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters in 2007. Her work on behalf of FSU students was recognized in 2006 when a residence hall was named and dedicated as Sherrill Williams Ragans Hall.
Craig Reutlinger graduated from both the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Law at Florida State University. He received his law degree in 1973, at which time he became an officer in the Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps.

After Reutlinger’s last military assignment as a regional medical legal consultant at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base brought his five and a half years of service to a close, he moved to Charlotte, N.C., to become the first in-house counsel for Carolina’s HealthCare System. After serving in that capacity for 10 years, Reutlinger went into private practice.

He has worked with Van Hoy, Reutlinger, Adams & Dunn for more than 25 years. The firm specializes in representing health care providers and other businesses in employment law and health law matters. He continues to represent health care providers, most of whom are physicians and physician group practices.

Reutlinger has served on several volunteer boards over the years, including the United Way; he served as chair of the North Carolina United Way Board. He has been married for 43 years to Paula Reutlinger, who also is a graduate of Florida State and serves on the College of Human Sciences Advisory Board.
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 is head of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. In this role, he is responsible for the strategic management of more than 15,000 financial advisers and 6,000 client associates from Merrill Lynch’s U.S. Wealth Management Group as well as more than 300 private wealth advisers in the Private Banking and Investment Group. Thiel is a member of the Global Wealth and Investment Management Executive Committee, the Risk Rating Executive Oversight Committee, the GWIM Product Approval Committee and is the executive sponsor for the GWIM Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Thiel joined the Private Banking and Investment Group in 2000. He opened the private wealth management business in the Pacific West Region as the regional managing director headquartered in San Francisco. During his tenure in San Francisco, he led the firm’s Leadership Advisory Council to Management as chairman from 2003-2005. He was named head of the Private Banking and Investment Group in 2006.

Thiel began his career with Merrill Lynch in 1989 as a financial adviser in Tampa. In 1995, he was selected to become part of the Global Private Client Advisory Division leadership team, later serving as the director in both Oakbrook and Northbrook, Ill.

Before joining Merrill Lynch, Thiel led a distinguished career in public accounting and the insurance industry. His background includes tax and estate planning experience along with financial operating expertise as a CPA with KPMG. Thiel also served as a senior instructor of the Dale Carnegie professional selling courses, helping countless students improve their skills in growing business.

As an advocate for finding a cure for cancer, Thiel serves as chairman of the Manhattan Region Financial Services Cares Board of the American Cancer Society.

Thiel received a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University. He became a Certified Public Accountant in 1985.
John Thrasher, a Florida State University alumnus and former state senator, is the university's 15th president.

Thrasher earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Florida State in 1965. After leaving Florida State, Thrasher joined the U.S. Army where he received the Army Commendation Medal in Germany and was awarded two Bronze stars for his service in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged as a captain in 1970.

Thrasher then returned to his alma mater to earn a law degree with honors in 1972.

In his political career, Thrasher has served on a school board, in the Florida House of Representatives and in the Florida Senate.

After working in private law practice in Daytona Beach and Tallahassee for several years, Thrasher returned to Jacksonville to serve as general counsel of the Florida Medical Association. He was a partner of Southern Strategy Group, a Tallahassee-based governmental relations firm, from 2001 to 2009.

Thrasher was unanimously elected as the speaker of the Florida House of Representatives in 1998, where he supported legislation such as the “A+ Education Plan” and the largest tax cut in Florida history.

He was elected to the Florida Senate in 2009 and subsequently re-elected. He served as chairman for the Republican Party of Florida in 2010.

From 2001 to 2005, Thrasher was the first chair of Florida State University’s Board of Trustees. In 2002, Thrasher was a key supporter of legislation that brought funding to the development of FSU’s College of Medicine, and a building at the college is named in his honor.

Born in Columbia, S.C., Thrasher grew up in Jacksonville.
Elizabeth J. Walters, a shareholder at Burke Blue Hutchison Walters & Smith P.A., represents clients in all areas of business and commercial, resort and residential real estate law from property acquisition, design, entitlement process, financing, construction and project operations, to redevelopment or sale of real property. She also represents clients in the areas of land use law, governmental relations, banking, business and commercial law.

As an attorney representing clients from small family businesses to large corporations, Walters works to develop the appropriate business organization and structure to facilitate success and to protect the assets of her clients. In addition to business formation, her practice includes many types of business transactions, such as mergers, asset acquisitions, reorganizations and termination of all types of business entities, as well as general contract matters.

Walters has extensive experience in real estate law, primarily in the area of resort and master planned community developments and condominiums. Her clients include developers, builders and resort owners and owners' associations throughout northwest Florida. She assists clients from planning to completion, with the development and ongoing operation of master planned residential communities, condominium and multi-condominium developments, commercial and retail developments and mixed-use communities.

Prior to joining Burke Blue in 1996, Walters gained insight and experience while serving in various senior staff positions with the Florida Cabinet and Legislature. She also held positions with statewide political campaigns and successfully represented interests of clients as a governmental consultant at all levels of government.
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.
Former Board Chairs

1960–61    Robert M. Strozier*
1961–64    Gordon W. Blackwell*
1964–65    John E. Champion*
1965–66    John G. McKay Jr.*
1967–73    B.K. Roberts*
1977–80    B.K. Roberts*
1980–82    William O. Cullom
1982–85    Julius F. Parker Jr.*
1986–91    George R. Langford Sr.
1991–92    Roy C. Young
1992–93    Hans W. Tews
1993–94    Fred O. Drake Jr.*
1994–95    William O. Cullom
1995–97    Gus A. Stavros
1998–99    Thomas F. Pettway III
2000–01    Clifford R. Hinkle
2004–05    Lynda Keever
2010–12    Ashbel C. Williams Jr.
2012-14    Gordon S. Holder
2014-16    John W. Thiel
2016-18    Julie Dunn Eichenberg

* Deceased
Trustees Emeriti

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Spouse: Mrs. Frances L. Stavros

Mr. George R. Langford
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