CSU Alumni Chosen to Be on Governor Deal’s Law Enforcement Task Force

Gov. Nathan Deal has announced the members of the law enforcement task force, who will examine the Basic Law Enforcement Officer Training Course and establish competency-based standards for any course revisions deemed appropriate. The task force is comprised of law enforcement officials, judges, legislators and community leaders throughout the state and will equip officers with the critical thinking and tactical skills needed to face the challenges of policing in a modern society. The four members listed below are CSU Alumni. Click here for entire article.

Bert Flewellen
Flewellen is a senior policy advisor with the Department of Community Supervision. He previously worked for the Department of Corrections and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Flewellen sits on the Governor’s Public Safety Awards committee and the Georgia Public Safety Memorial committee. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia’s Corrections Leadership Institute and the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Development Program. Flewellen earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

Dan Kirk
Kirk is the assistant director at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). He was previously a forensic toxicologist, a regional lab manager, the deputy chief of facilities and support operations and crime lab director at GBI. Kirk is a member of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Peace Officers Association of Georgia, Atlanta Metropol, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Augusta State University, a master’s degree in Analytical Chemistry from Georgia Tech and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

Ken Vance
Vance is the executive director of the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council and has more than 38 years of experience in law enforcement. He is also an adjunct professor in the Command College at Columbus State University. Vance was previously a councilman for the City of Milledgeville. He earned a master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

Scott Woodell
Woodell is the director of training for the Department of Public Safety and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He is an adjunct professor in the Command College at Columbus State University. Woodell is a member of the American Legion, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the American Association of State Troopers and the State and Provincial Police Academy Directors. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Thomas University, a master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.
Interview with CSU Alumna Laura Bauer

Laura Bauer is an alumna of Columbus State University’s Master in Public Administration and has worked for the Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) for the past 18 ½ years. She is the National Program Director for the RCI’s Operation Family Caregiver Program, which offers free and confidential support to spouses, family members, and friends providing care for service members and veterans.

What are the main responsibilities of your current job?

Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter founded the institute at her alma mater, Georgia Southwestern State University, in 1987. Her goal was to provide caregivers, whether family, professional, or volunteer, effective supports to promote their health, skills and resilience. We accomplish that goal through efforts of advocacy, education, research and service.

As National Program Director for the RCI’s Operation Family Caregiver (OFC) Program, I provide training, technical assistance, and oversight for 12 OFC sites located across the country. OFC provides free and confidential support to spouses, family members and friends providing care for service members and veterans with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress, and/or physical disability. Part of my job is to raise awareness about the needs and challenges facing the 5.5 million hidden heroes caring for those who have served their country. From making national presentations to visiting the offices of Senators and Congressmen on Capitol Hill, what fuels my passion for this work is getting to meet the caregivers themselves. They are selflessly serving our country too, and deserve our support as they try to manage the needs of their loved ones, their children, and themselves. They are the strongest, most resilient people I have ever met.

In what ways did your Masters of Public Administration degree from CSU prepare you for your work?

My MPA from Columbus State University helped prepare me for my career in so many ways. Dr. Bill Chappell was a true mentor to me. I was an older, non-traditional student, married and raising 4 stepchildren at the time I entered the program, and working both a full-time and part-time job to help make ends meet. At a time when I was sorely lacking in self-confidence, his love for teaching made me rediscover my love of learning, and I so looked forward to his classes. He encouraged thinking outside of the box, and always made me feel that I had something valuable to contribute. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the program courses, but through the years I have often gone back to Dr. Chappell’s self-written textbook and my class notes on Budget Management. What I learned in that class has particularly been helpful when managing budgets for multiple grants, for multiple program sites.

What advice could you give to current CSU graduate students to assist them in their personal and/or professional goals?

Never sell yourself short. It had been 17 years since I’d last been in college when I went back, first to finish my undergraduate degree in Psychology, then straight on through the MPA program. Stay focused on your goals and do not allow personal or work challenges to keep you from crossing the finish line. In all things, perseverance is vital. Get the nay-sayers out of your life, and surround yourself with people who support you and genuinely want to see you succeed.

Is there any other information you would like to share?

Work is important, but so is nurturing your other passions. Become involved in something outside of work, whether it be civic engagement, hobbies, volunteering, or mentoring. I am an advocate for many issues, including peacemaking, and am honored to serve as Vice-President of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation in Rockville, Maryland and am on the Board of Governors of the We Are Family Foundation in New York City. My dog Katie and I are a certified Pet Partner animal therapy team, volunteering at local elementary schools, hospices, hospitals and nursing homes. Striving for a work/life balance will keep you from burning out in whatever career field you choose.
November 8—Election Day!
**Rock the Vote House Party**
8:00pm, Recreation Center (Multipurpose Room)
Hosted by the CSU Office of Residence Live
Come enjoy food, music, and fun while the polls are on the big screen!

**November 12**
**Homecoming Tailgate**
12:00pm-3:00pm
Look for the Graduate School tent in the University Hall Parking Lots! We are still looking for anyone who is willing to volunteer time and/or donate food, drinks, utensils, tailgate activity equipment, and/or a grill and grilling utensils.

October 31-December 2
**Toy Drive**
Donate an unwrapped toy for deserving children in our community. Drop toys off at the Office of Diversity in the Davidson Center. For more information, contact Jamray Stewart at 404-856-7198.

November 17
**Graduate Student Advisory Board Meeting**
Schuster 101
At this meeting, students will serve as a focus group providing graduate student input to the CSU strategic plan. There will also be more discussion and planning for Winterfest.

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**Graduate Conference Finalists and Winners**

**3MT Finalists:**

* **Javier Livio** – Columbus State University  
  *Fuzzy Expert Systems: A More Human-Based Approach for Sensorial Evaluation of Coffee-Bean Attributes to Derive Quality Scoring*

* **Kerstin Motsch** – Columbus State University  
  *Going Green: A Look at Water Quality in Cape Coral Florida*

* **Marissa Granberry** – Columbus State University  
  *Cold Tolerance Variation in Introduced Apple Snails Along a Latitudinal Gradient*

* **Caitlin Gallagher** – Columbus State University  
  *Effects of Female Condition and Human Disturbance on Allocation of Biliverdin to Eggshells of Eastern Bluebirds (Sialia sialis) Breeding in West-central Georgia*

* **Barbara Quintard** – Lee University  
  *It's Not Too Late: A Study of Learning Preferences of Low-Literacy Adult Emergent Bilinguals*

* **Lauren Whitehurst** – Columbus State University  
  *Implementing a DNA Barcoding Pipeline for the Identification and Prevention of Invasive Plant Propagules Entering Ports*

**3MT Winners:**

* People’s Choice & Winner: **Kerstin Motsch** – Columbus State University  
  *Going Green: A Look at Water Quality in Cape Coral Florida*

* Runner Up: **Barbara Quintard** – Lee University  
  *It's Not Too Late: A Study of Learning Preferences of Low-Literacy Adult Emergent Bilinguals*

**Best Poster Presentation:**

* Nathaniel Maddox, Kari West & Ashley Howard, Savannah State University  
  *The Significance of Learned Social Attachments for Life Satisfaction Among Gender Nonconforming College Students*

**Best Oral Presentation:**

* **Lauren Whitehurst** – Columbus State University  
  *Implementing a DNA Barcoding Pipeline for the Identification and Prevention of Invasive Plant Propagules Entering Ports*