



CLARK ATLANTA  
UNIVERSITY

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2025

2026

## *Gregory B. Morrison (2004) **Chair** Atlanta, Georgia*



Gregory B. Morrison served as Corporate Chief Information Officer for Cox Enterprises, a communications, media, and automotive services company from February 2002 until his retirement in January 2020. There, he was responsible for providing corporate strategic planning and policy development, leveraging deployment of new information technology across the company's operations. Previously, Mr. Morrison spent 12 years with Prudential Financial, serving in a variety of Information Technology and Systems leadership and CIO roles. Mr. Morrison brings to the board of trustees extensive knowledge and expertise with large-scale business transformations and technology deployments. He also serves as director of Rollins, Inc., Veritex Holdings, Inc., Amerisure Mutual Insurance Company, and IEWC Corporation. In addition, he serves as Chairman

of the Clark Atlanta University board of trustees. Mr. Morrison holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from South Carolina State University and a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Northwestern University. Mr. Morrison was also a commissioned officer in the United States Army Signal Corps.

## *Leonard Walker (2005), **Vice Chair** Atlanta, Georgia*



Leonard Walker brings previous banking and venture capital exposure to the Board of Trustees. As Business Banking Division Manager for Wells Fargo Bank (formerly Wachovia Bank, N.A.), he headed banking activities for more than 4,000 companies with annual sales ranging from \$3M to more than \$25M and maintained responsibility for all corporate banking, treasury services, credit and capital management needs for Business Banking Customers in Atlanta. As founder and principal of CyberStarts, an institution-backed venture capital firm based in Atlanta and funded, in part, by Wachovia, Walker created, acquired, and managed companies focusing on the intersection of financial services and technology.

Walker's banking career includes 11 years with JPMorgan Chase in New York, New York, where he held a number of senior management positions, including Small Business Financial Services and Division Executive in Middle Market Banking. Mr. Walker serves on the Board of the YMCA Metro Atlanta, Grady Health Foundation, Central Atlanta Progress and Midtown Alliance. Recipient of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Davidson College and Master of Business Administration degree from Columbia University, he is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Program for Management Development. Mr. Walker chairs the Board of Trustees' Finance and Audit Committee.

## *Stephanie Russell (2013) (MBA 1993) Secretary Atlanta, GA*



Guided by a commitment to service as community activist and volunteer, Stephanie Russell has focused her attention and energies on the areas of health and education as they impact the well-being of children and women, particularly African-American. Professionally, Mrs. Russell served internships with the Coca-Cola Company and McMaster-Carr Industry Supply Company, after which she held positions as Brand Manager, Fountain Division, the Coca-Cola Company, and Product Development Manager, BellSouth Cellular, where she was responsible for creating brand relevancy and advertising plans for the GT Wireless program. Mrs. Russell actively supports several organizations and initiatives. Following a successful transplant between her husband and his brother and garnering in excess of \$300,000, she organized and sponsored the first-ever African American Kidney Fund Gala to advance awareness and promote the Fund. In addition, the Fund was beneficiary of a \$100,000 family gift. Mrs. Russell serves as member of several

philanthropic and community organizations including: Board of the National Black Arts Foundation, Wren's Nest; Villages of Carver YMCA; and the Westminster Schools "Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Institute for Philanthropy and to Serve Learning. She is actively involved on committees within the Woodward Academy community and the Girl Scouts of America. Mrs. Russell has chaired and cochaired many events throughout the Atlanta Community, including the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF). As a founding member of Granting Atlanta's Wishes (G.A.W.), a nine-woman organization, Mrs. Russell provides assistance to those seeking to pursue educational, entrepreneurial and artistic dreams. She received the Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Clark Atlanta University in 1998. Mrs. Russell is married to H. Jerome Russell and they have four children.

## *John Hope Bryant (2022) Atlanta, Georgia*



John Hope Bryant is the first Clark Atlanta University School of Business Entrepreneur Scholar in Residence. Referred to as the Conscience of Capitalism by the CEOs of Delta Air Lines and Walmart, Bryant is an American entrepreneur, author, thought leader, and philanthropic leader. He is the Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of Operation HOPE, Inc., the largest not-for-profit and best-in-class provider of financial literacy, financial inclusion and economic empowerment tools and services in the United States for youth and adults. He is also chairman and chief executive officer of John Hope Bryant Holdings, Bryant Group Ventures, and The Promise Homes Company, the largest for-profit minority-controlled owner of institutional-quality, singlefamily residential rental homes in the United States. In December of 2021, Bryant successfully recapitalized into a new Promise Homes Co. joint venture for more than \$120 million, paying off all debts and investors. Simultaneously, in December 2021, Bryant successfully closed a 200M credit facility to grow the new housing joint venture, marking one of the largest capital raises by a Black-owned company in more than a decade (according to Black Enterprise). Bryant has received hundreds of awards and citations for his work, including Oprah Winfrey's Use Your Life Award and the John Sherman Award for Excellence in Financial

Education from the U.S. Department of Treasury. Five former U.S. presidents have recognized his work, and he has served as an advisor to three sitting U.S. presidents from both political parties. John Hope Bryant has been recognized by The Atlanta Business Chronicle's "2022 Power 100"; he is named #2 among 100 inspirational leaders on the "Yahoo Finance Empower Role Model list 2022"; he was awarded the 100 Black Men of America "Chairman's Award for Economic Empowerment," Georgia Trend's "100 Most Influential Georgians" in 2022 and 2023, Atlanta Business Chronicle's "Most Admired CEOs of 2018," Atlanta Business Chronicle's "The Power 100: Most Influential Atlantans in 2020," American Banker magazine's 2016 "Innovator of the Year," and one of Time magazine's "50 Leaders for the Future" in 1994. On May 2, 2023, Operation HOPE and Shopify were announced as winners of Fast Company's World Changing Ideas Awards for their partnership to create 1 Million Black Businesses by 2030. John Hope Bryant has also received an honorable mention in Inc. magazine's "The World's 10 Top CEOs" article that spotlights global servant leaders as the visionaries behind some of the most successful organizations.

## *Valeisha Butterfield (2004) Atlanta, Georgia*



Valeisha Butterfield is a globally recognized, award-winning business leader at the forefront of tech, entertainment and politics. She is heralded by millions as a cultural vanguard and women's empowerment leader with a proven track record of uplifting the next generation of creators, entrepreneurs and executives. As the Founder and CEO of SEED Media, Valeisha produces the world's most iconic stories and experiences with the goal to inspire one billion people globally. SEED Media develops best-selling books into commercially viable television and film adaptations. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of Clark Atlanta University, Valeisha also is a member of the Board of Directors for GRAMMY Global Ventures, the global arm of the Recording Academy. She is also the Honorary Chair of the Recording Academy's Black Music Collective and a Member of the GRAMMYs Television Committee, consecutively producing one of the most diverse and highly rated telecasts on CBS year over year, for the last four seasons. Valeisha

previously served as the Co-President of the Recording Academy, Vice President of Global Partnerships and Engagement for Google, Inc., Deputy Director of Public Affairs for International Trade in the Obama Administration and as the National Youth Vote Director for Obama for America, helping to deliver one of the highest youth voter turnouts in American history. A North Carolina native and California resident, Valeisha has been recognized by FORBES, Fortune, Fast Company, ADWEEK, ADCOLOR, EBONY Power 100, Billboard, ELLE Magazine's top 25 leading women, ESSENCE and others. Valeisha is also a mom, author, co-founder of the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN) and proud graduate of Clark Atlanta University.

## *James H. Colon (2013) Marysville, Washington*



Current Co-owner of Marysville Toyota in Marysville, Washington, James Colon previously served as Toyota vice president, African American Business Strategy for North America, where he was responsible for engaging Hispanic and African American business and media communities and building a network of Toyota Associates and team members across regions to optimize relationships with these constituencies. Prior to assuming this role, Colon was vice president of product communications for Toyota Motor Sales (TMS) U.S.A., Inc., where he was responsible for creating, gathering, and managing information for promotion initiatives for Toyota-brand vehicles in addition to product sales and training. Colon held various roles at Toyota regional offices and TMS headquarters in Torrance, California, including general manager for the Portland and

Chicago regions and vice president of sales for the Toyota Division with responsibility for sales support of Toyota regional offices, public companies, and private distributors. Trustee Colon serves on the Board of Directors for Black Star Project and the First Tee of South Los Angeles. In 2011, he was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for California State University, Los Angeles' Friends of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology, and is a member of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Los Angeles Leadership Council. In support of its mission to develop leaders, inform policy, and educate the public, Colon was recently appointed to Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Colon is recipient of the bachelor's degree in economics and business from Manchester University in North Manchester, Indiana. In May 2011, Mr. Colon was awarded the Honorary Doctorate degree in Humane Letters from Martin University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

*Salvador Diaz-Verson, Jr. (1995) Sarasota, Florida*



Salvador Diaz-Verson, Jr., is Chairman and President of Diaz-Verson Capital Investments, a company formed in 1993. Previously the President and Chief Investment Officer of American Family Life Assurance Company (AFLAC), company rose to become a Fortune 500 Company under his leadership. Among his many achievements were the diversification of the specialty insurance company's national and international operations and holdings, opening offices in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea, the Cayman Islands, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Mr. Diaz-Verson serves on the Board of Directors of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame, Boys & Girls Club of America, Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation (GA), St. Francis Hospital (GA), American Cancer Society, United Way, Atlanta Hispanic

Chamber of Commerce, Regions Bank and Clemente Capital, Vestmark Inc., Foodsource, LLC, and Diaz Foods, the largest Hispanic-owned company distributing Latino and Specialty Food Products in the nation. Recipient of the Master's degree in Business Administration from Florida State University (FSU), this alumnus was inducted into the University's Hall of Fame in 2005.

*Jeffrey T. Gilbert (2023) Atlanta, Georgia*



Jeffrey T. Gilbert leads the Global Security & Asset Protection team for The Coca-Cola Company and is responsible for Global (Physical) Security, including Digital Forensics Investigations, Business Threat Intelligence, Associate Safety and Asset Protection, Business Continuity and Resilience, Incident Management and Crisis Resolution (IMCR). He leads a skilled team of security professionals, dedicated to the protection and safety of The Coca-Cola Company brand, associates, and assets. Prior to joining The Coca-Cola Company, Trustee Gilbert served as Sr. Vice President and Chief Security Officer for Warner Media, Inc., where he oversaw global security operations for Warner Media business interests, including HBO, Warner Brothers, Turner Broadcasting, CNN, and CNN International. For over 26 years, Mr. Gilbert served with the U.S. Government, including 21 years as a Special Agent with the United States Secret

Service, where he held several senior executive positions, including the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service, Atlanta Field Division. Trustee Gilbert currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Security Foundation (ISF) and the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). He maintains professional affiliations with several organizations, including the International Security Management Association (ISMA), the U.S. Department of State, Overseas Advisory Council (OSAC), and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). Trustee Gilbert is a graduate of Hampton University and The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

## *Ernest G. Green (1999) Washington, D.C.*



Following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision declaring school segregation illegal, Green and eight other African-American students, later known as the “Little Rock Nine,” were the first to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Several books, movies, and documentaries have chronicled Mr. Green and his eight classmates’ experience during their historic year at Central High School. On November 9, 1999, President William Clinton presented the “Little Rock Nine” with the nation’s highest civilian honor, the “Congressional Gold Medal.” Subsequently, as first member of the “Little Rock Nine” Mr. Green completed high school, earning his diploma from Central High School. Mr. Green is recipient of the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Sociology from Michigan State University. He subsequently served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training during the administration of President Jimmy Carter and was appointed by President William Clinton as Chairman of the African Development Foundation. On appointment by former United States Secretary of Education, Richard W. Riley, he served as Chairman of the Historical-

ly Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board. In addition to currently serving as member of the Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees, Mr. Green has also served on the Fisk University Board of Trustees and as a member of the National Association of Securities professionals (NASP), where he served as Chairman for two consecutive years, Quality Education of Minorities (QEM), Council, United State Conference of Mayors, Action International, and Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Sigma Pi Phi and Omega Psi Phi Fraternities. The recipient of countless awards during his lifetime, Mr. Green has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Arkansas (2012), Spelman College, Central State University, and Tougaloo College. In addition to receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor, Mr. Green witnessed the recent renaming of the street in front of Central High, Little Rock Nine Way, and renaming of a United States submarine in his honor.

## *Keith F. Holmes (2025)*



Keith F. Holmes is a Leadership Coach and former C-Suite executive. At E Leadership Coaching, Keith coaches leaders to develop the skills to influence outcomes and inspire others. Keith founded ELC to use the skills, experiences and abilities gained over 0 successful years to give back, make an impact, and help others achieve their leadership goals. During his career Keith coached leaders at all career levels ranging from supervisors to executives and officers. He built a reputation as an outstanding mentor, leader, and operator running organizations with the highest level of integrity while creating engaging work environments for employees, a culture of extraordinary customer experience, and delivering excellent results for shareowners. Prior to founding ELC, Keith was Chief Revenue Officer for ADT. In that role, Keith oversaw Marketing and Sales along with revenue and customer growth for the

company. eith led the Consumer Small Business (CSB) space which accounted for B of ADT’s B in revenue. Prior to running CB, Keith was SVP of Residential Sales for Cox Communications. He was responsible for Sales (all channels), Sales Strategy, Sales Operations, and Multi-Family leading over 3,000 employees, generating \$9B in revenue. At Cox Keith also co-founded and cosponsored WGN, a mentoring and coaching program designed for the growth and support of Black male leaders in Director-level and above positions. Keith began his career at BellSouth (subsequently AT&T) in Birmingham, AL in 1991 as a regulatory assistant manager. His first significant P&L leadership role was with the company VPGM with Keith driving the Georgia/South Carolina market region for AT&T Wireless earning \$2.8B in revenue.

## *Richard Holmes (AU'84) (2010) Atlanta, Georgia*



Richard Holmes is retired Senior Vice President of the Metro Atlanta Region for Georgia Power. Prior to appointment as Corporate Compliance Officer in 2004, Mr. Holmes maintained responsibility for electric operations, sales and marketing, customer service/ business offices, governmental relations, and community economic development for Georgia Power's 1.2M customers in metropolitan Atlanta. Mr. Holmes previously served on the boards of the Georgia State Department of Community Health (Chairman); Fort McPherson Local Redevelopment Authority; Literacy Action; Kennesaw State University Foundation; Columbus State University Foundation; American Association of Blacks in Energy; Atlanta Branch NAACP; Atlanta Beltline Partnership; and the Atlanta Police Foundation. In 1999, he served as Chairman of the Board of the Cobb

chamber of Commerce, becoming the first African American to lead the second largest Chamber in Georgia. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Atlanta, Leadership Cobb, Leadership Columbus, and the Regional Leadership Institute. Mr. Holmes earned his B.S. degree from Columbus State University and the M.B.A. degree from Atlanta University. He also completed the Harvard University Business School Program for Management Development. Mr. Holmes is the current chair of the Board of Trustees' Building and Grounds Committee

## *Tharon Johnson (CAU'01) (2013) Atlanta, Georgia*



Tharon Johnson is the founder and CEO of Paramount Consulting Group, a full-service, bipartisan government affairs and communications firm based in Atlanta, serving clients in the corporate and political sectors. A nationally recognized political strategist and trusted community leader, Tharon appears each week on Fox 5 Atlanta's longest-running public affairs program, "The Georgia Gang," and on 90.1 WABE-FM's popular "Political Breakfast" podcast, ranked among the top 40 political podcasts nationally. Tharon advises elected officials at the highest levels of government. Most recently, he served as a senior advisor to the Biden-Harris campaign in the battleground state of Georgia. He has served at senior levels of federal, state, and local campaigns, including for President Barack Obama, Congressman John Lewis, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Congressman John Barrow and DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond. He appears regularly as a key contributor on news shows, including CNN, MSNBC and Atlanta's WSB-TV, providing timely insights and analysis of political developments at the national, state, and local levels. He also is frequently quoted in Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Political Insider blog, Politico, Roll Call, The Hill and other notable publications. Tharon has received "40 Under 40" awards from both Georgia

Trend Magazine and Atlanta Business Chronicle and was named one of the "Top 25 Most Influential Georgians" by James Magazine. He was the youngest and first African American to receive the "Campaign Manager of the Year" distinction from the American Association of Political Consultants. In addition to his political honors, Tharon was awarded the "Unsung Hero Award" by his alma mater Clark Atlanta University for outstanding contributions in Arts and Sciences. He is board member for the John Lewis Foundation and also on the board of advisors for Inclusivity. With his astute grasp of not only politics, but also economic and corporate climate, Tharon continues to lead his firm to success. Paramount has over a decade of experience providing effective results for clients, from raising the dollars needed to push campaigns over the top to securing strategic contracts for clients, while keeping them engaged and connected with the community. Paramount Consulting Group specializes in government affairs, lobbying, campaign strategy, and communications. Leveraging deep relationships from across the aisle, the firm supports clients through a variety of complex needs, providing strategic guidance and solutions that drive results.

## *Ms. Ingrid Saunders Jones (2003) Atlanta, Georgia*



Ingrid Saunders Jones retired as Senior Vice President of Global Community Connections for the Coca-Cola Company and Chair of The Coca-Cola Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation contributed more than \$340 million to support a range of sustainable community initiatives and funds, including the Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship Program for first generation college students. Ms. Saunders Jones has served as Chair of the National Council of Negro Women. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Clark Atlanta University Cancer Center, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, The Ohio State University President's Council on Women, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, and the National Board of Directors for Girl Scouts. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta and the Society of International Business Fellows. Ms. Saunders Jones is the recipient of numerous awards for her work and

contributions, including the 2011 Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award; the 2010 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America; the 2010 Corporate Responsibility Award from ESSENCE Magazine; the 2008 Executive Leadership Council Achievement Award; The President's Award from Morehouse College; The Ohio State University Foundation's John B. Gerlach Development Award; and the Georgia State University School of Business Hall of Fame Award. A native of Detroit, Ms. Saunders Jones earned a bachelor's degree in Education at Michigan State University and a master's degree in Education at Eastern Michigan University. She is the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from her alma mater, Michigan State University, Spelman College, and Knoxville College. Ms. Saunders Jones serves as chair of the Board's Institutional Advancement and University Relations Committee.

## *Valerie King (2025) Chicago, Illinois*



Valerie King is a Senior Vice President in Institutional Marketing at Ariel Investments and focuses on business development and client service. Through Valerie's demonstrated executive leadership and passion for financial literacy, she also serves as Ariel's lead in an initiative to partner diverse asset managers with HBCU presidents and senior leadership to help increase the growth of their foundation assets as well as recruit HBCU students for career opportunities in the investment industry. Previously, Valerie spent 17 years as Director of Sales and Marketing for Holland Capital Management. Prior to that, Valerie was Vice President of Marketing for T. Rowe Price Group, Inc. Outside of Ariel, Valerie is a member of La Rabida Children's Hospital Board and serves on the Executive Committee of the Illinois Arts Council Board. She is also a member of the Women Investment Professionals, National Black MBA

Association, Chicago Urban League, Goodman Business Council, National Association of Corporate Directors, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In 2024, Valerie was honored as one of the City of Chicago's Top 20 Women Trailblazers in Finance. Valerie earned a B.A. Degree in Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. Degree from Clark Atlanta University School of Business Administration.

## *Wendy Lewis (2012) South Orange, New Jersey*



Trustee Lewis is known for her keen ability to build action through intelligence, diplomacy, trust, and consensus-building. As McDonald's former Global Chief Diversity Officer and VP of Community Engagement, she launched the first-ever Global Gender Balance and Diversity Strategy across the enterprise. Her creation of the "Diversity IS Inclusion" mantra became ingrained throughout the business, resulting in an education framework that targeted the development of culturally intelligent leaders, suppliers, owner-operators, and partners. This led to the design and development of "Food for Thought: Moving Beyond Bias," which brought immediate value and was adopted globally. She was also at the forefront of some of McDonald's most visible programs, including flipping the arches for International Women's Day, strengthening the advancement of McDonald's Employee Business Networks and partnering across the System to advance supplier diversity and diverse franchising programs. Also, Wendy Lewis is the founder and creator of AllySHIFT®, a progressive and seismic platform for advocacy and sustainable equity. She is known for shifting the transactional to the transformative and considers herself an evangelist for Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Equity. Her company, Wendy Lewis, LLC, is a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion practice firm with a focus is empathetic leadership and "allyship sustainability." Prior to McDonald's, the majority of Wendy's career had been with Major League Baseball, where she was the first ever to hold a formal Human Resources Management role within professional sports as the head of HR for the Chicago Cubs. She quickly became known for promoting positive action through a multifaceted approach in gaining awareness, empathy, diplomacy, credibility, trust, and consensus-building, ultimately inspiring and guiding key stakeholders. It was during her early baseball years within the Chicago Cubs franchise that Wendy identified and developed a ground-breaking opportunity to extend the diversity and inclusion practices throughout

the immediate organization and into the supply chain, partnerships, and communities. Her executive promotion to the Commissioner's Office for Major League Baseball expanded the scope and scale of her experience and achievements. Her strategic executions resulted in the creation of systems and collaborations that delivered in-depth analysis for the value proposition for the positive ROI. Wendy's integrated insights and deliverables produced MLB's transformational Diversity Economic Impact Engagement, a model for advancing MLB's workforce and supply chain initiatives league-wide. Also, she conceived and developed another first in sports--a centralized strategic planning process for D&I for MLB's 30 franchises, central office, MLB Network, and MLB Advanced Media. She spearheaded many innovative programs and events, such as MLB's Diversity Business Summit, the League's employment and procurement conference. The Summit resulted in new talent pipelines and business partnerships across all MLB entities. Also, she introduced the leadership of MLB's Executive Development Program, a two-year intensive rotational experience for selected participants to gain access and opportunity for successful careers in professional sports.

## *Valerie R. Love (2020) Atlanta, Georgia*



Valerie Love is a trusted advisor and passionate leader with demonstrated experience in the areas of talent and performance management, organizational design, succession planning, compensation, mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and executive coaching. Prior to her roles in Human Resources, Valerie has also had extensive work experience in Finance, Operations and Labor Relations where she successfully built and developed world-class business teams across different industries, functions, and geographies. Valerie's passion is rooted in her belief that talent, leadership, and culture are keys to successful businesses. Her focus is on positively advancing the quality of talent in the business, the culture being created, the effectiveness of programs and policies, workforce dynamics, change strategy, and inclusive leadership with a growth mindset. Valerie's lifelong curiosity about what makes people join, perform, contribute, stay, and accelerate in an organization has made her a valued partner to senior leaders who understand that strong talent and the right culture are the ultimate competitive advantage. She most recently served as Chief of Human Resources North America for the Coca-Cola Company. In this role, Valerie's primary responsibilities are to lead organizational design and people-related strategies within the company in support of acquiring, developing, and retaining the best talent, while creating a work environment and culture that enables all associates to function at their best. Prior to joining the Coca-Cola Company, Valerie spent 20 years at General Motors with increasing levels of responsibilities within Finance, Operations, Labor Relations, and Human Resources supporting multiple functions and organizations. While at General Motors, Valerie also completed two international assignments in Argentina and Germany with primary responsibility leading Human Resources activities related to new plant start-ups in Argentina, China, Thailand, Brazil, Poland, India, and Israel. Valerie continued her career transitioning to Tyco International as Vice President, Human Resources, and most recently served as Senior Vice President, Human Resources Supply Chain and Global Quality at Johnson and Johnson. Valerie's passion for people enables her to make meaningful impact as it relates to employees and the business.

She has a history of leveraging her people-first leadership style and strategic acumen to serve as a change agent accelerating the advancement of sustainable results, while nurturing diverse and inclusive communities both internally and externally. Valerie has served as Executive Chair of the African American Employee Resource Groups at General Motors, Tyco International, and Cochair of the Executive Ancestry Leadership Council at Johnson & Johnson, and currently serves as the Executive Chair of the Coca-Cola Company US Social Justice and Racial Equity Steering Committee. Valerie serves as an independent member of Kimball International's Board of Directors and is a member of their Compensation and Governance Committee. Valerie also serves on external nonprofit boards with a keen interest in driving positive and sustainable change in underserved communities. She recently joined NASCAR's newly formed Industry Diversity Council. Valerie is a lifetime member of the National Black MBA Association, where she recently was a Board Member and Chair of the Programming Committee and former Chair of the Human Resources Committee. She is a Member of the Tennessee State University Board Foundation, Board of Trustees at Clark Atlanta University, where she serves on the Institutional Advancement & University Relations and Governance & Compensation Committees. Previously, she has served on the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – North Florida and is currently a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC). Valerie received the 2017 YWCA (Union County, New Jersey) Tribute to Women & Industry (TWIN) Award. She was named 2020 Ebony Power 100 and was featured in the November 2020 edition of Forbes Magazine. She has also served on external speaker panels such as Human Resources Forum, 100 Black Men of America, National Council of Negro Women, NASCAR, FedEx and LinkedIn Learning. Valerie received her Master of Business Administration degree from Belmont University and Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Tennessee State University, both in Nashville, Tennessee.

## *Michael E. Melton (2007) Atlanta, Georgia*



Michael E. Melton is Founder, President and CEO of TME Enterprises (“TME”). Headquartered in Atlanta, the company owns and manages a portfolio of commercial real estate properties and restaurants. He is also an attorney with more than 30 years’ experience in the field of intellectual property law (litigation and licensing) and the management of intellectual property law departments, in addition to which he is a published author and frequent lecturer on topics pertaining to intellectual property law. Previously held positions include Vice President and Director of Semiconductor licensing for Motorola, Inc., Deputy General Counsel for Intellectual Property for Pitney Bowes, Director and Chief Patent Counsel for MCI Communications Corporation, and European Legal Counsel for Texas Instruments, Inc. Mr. Melton is a member of Leadership Greater Washington class of 2007, Life Fellow of

the Dallas Bar Foundation, and member Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. Prior affiliations include Board member, One Hundred Black Men of America, Inc., and President of the Washington, D.C. Chapter, Principal and founding member of the Board of Directors of the Merit Bank (Overland Park, Kansas), Board member, Urban League of Northern Virginia, Advisory Board of Directors of the National Head Start Association, Board member, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, and Board Member of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and Juris Doctor degree - Order of the Coif - from the University of Missouri. He is a member of Missouri University College of Engineering Dean’s Advisory Council and is a life member of the University’s alumni association.

## *Mark C. O’Riley (1980) Tampa, Florida*



Mark C. O’Riley (class of 1980), retired in 2022 after a distinguished, decades-long career with the International Business Machines Corporation, IBM. Through positions in both IBM’s legal, research, sales, and government and regulatory affairs teams, Mark played a pivotal role in shaping supercomputing strategies and programs for both the company itself and the U.S. government as a whole. More recently, he helped guide creation of the U.S. National Quantum Initiative, designed to ensure America’s continued leadership in quantum computing technology and applications. His expertise in fields ranging from research and development to law and public policy was central to supporting IBM’s longterm growth and innovation strategies. In both his personal and professional lives, Mark has enthusiastically embraced the responsibility of mentorship, and helping future generations see through his own

experience, pathways to careers and opportunities they may not have considered. He focuses every day on living up to family lessons and urging: “your own success is not enough; you owe something back to someone else.” Mark is a Board Member of the One Hundred Black Men of Atlanta and a life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Henry Arthur Callis Education Foundation. Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Long Island University, a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), and a Juris Doctor Degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is a proud father, and lives with his wife Yvonne in Tampa, Florida.

## *Al B. Reid ('83) (2019) Northbrook, Illinois*



Al B Reid is the founder and CEO of Calypso Investment Partners which provides investment capital to innovative startups in a variety of industries. Prior to Calypso Investment Partners, Al served as a Corporate Development Officer for Abbott Laboratories and Baxter Healthcare. He is a Board Member of Farmers Insurance and Navis Clinical Laboratories and serves on the Advisory Boards for Fifth Level Capital, Fences Venture, and Aslan Capital. Reid is a longtime board member of the History Makers, APGA Tour and Chicago District Golf Association Foundation. Reid is a frequently invited panelist on topics related to executing corporate growth programs and building diverse and inclusive organizations. Reid received his B.A. degree in Communication from Clark Atlanta University and the M.S. degree in Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Reid and his wife, Cheri, live in Northbrook, Illinois

## *Bobbie Kennedy Sanford (CC'63) (2012) Atlanta, Georgia*



Bobbie Kennedy Sanford, Broker and Principal of Sanford Realty Company, Inc., established the first black real estate firm in DeKalb County, along with her late husband, Porter Sanford III, in 1965. She has amassed a distinguished record of achievement both within the real estate industry and as citizen extraordinaire. Mrs. Sanford has served in leadership positions at the county, state and national levels. Having served in leadership capacities within the DeKalb Association of Realtors, she was elected first African-American Female President and subsequently awarded the Clark Harrison Community Service Award in 2009 and Realtor of the Year in 2010. As member of the Georgia Association of Realtors, she served on the Education Advisory Committee for the Georgia Real Estate Commission and was inducted into the Georgia REALTORS Hall of Fame in 2019. Mrs. Sanford currently is on the Board

of Directors of the Georgia Multiple Listing Service. Also, she is a former president, Broker of the Year, and Chairman of the Board of the Empire Board of Realtists. In addition, she is serving as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. A founding and life member of Decatur Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Founding Member, 100 Black Women of DeKalb, and Stone Mountain Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Mrs. Sanford is a former member of Leadership DeKalb, DeKalb Board of Ethics and the DeKalb Development Authority. Alumna Sanford is a Charter member and past Copresident of the DeKalb County Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association and recipient of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Education.

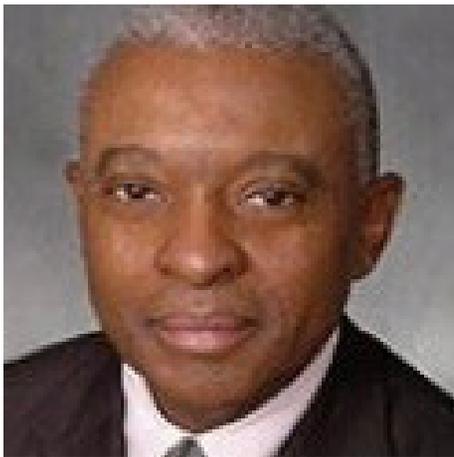
*Isaac J. Snype, Jr. (CC'76) (2004) Cary, North Carolina*



Supply chain and finance executive level professional, trustee and alumnus Isaac J. Snype, Jr., is Senior Contract Administrator and Procurement Professional at the International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation. Having earned several promotions in this role, he negotiates, manages, and performs as focal point for a variety of complex procurement contracts with independent suppliers. Trustee Snype has served his alma mater as both dedicated alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees. A devoted member of the National Alumni Association, he has held elected and appointed offices at the local and national levels, including serving as President of the Miami, Metro Washington, D.C., and South Florida chapters. Trustee Snype has also served as Chair of the Alumni Association Constitution and Budget committee and Representative to the Board on behalf

of the National Alumni Association. For his service to the Association, he has been recognized, receiving the following awards: NAFEO Distinguished Alumni Award; President's Alumni Achievement Award; Outstanding Leadership Award – South Florida Chapter; and Salute to Leadership Honoree – UNCF Washington, DC Inter Alumni Council. Following his election to the Board of Trustees, Mr. Snype served as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. Elected Senior Class President and to membership in the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Trustee Snype graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) in Business Administration and was awarded the Master of Business Administration degree from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Snype maintains memberships with the National Black MBA Association and National Association of Black Accountants.

*Errol B. Taylor (2016) New York, New York*



Errol Taylor is a strategic advisor to the pharmaceutical industry and a retired partner from Milbank LLP, a multinational law firm. He has focused mainly on advising research pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies regarding intellectual property strategy and patent litigation. Mr. Taylor led Milbank's biopharma patent practice from 2003 through 2020, where he served as lead counsel in numerous multiparty, multinational cases involving some of the world's most prescribed medicines. Before practicing law, Mr. Taylor was a preclinical research associate for Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. He has been recognized as one of the world's leading pharmaceutical attorneys by numerous publications and journals, among them: Chambers USA; Managing IP; LMG Life Sciences; IAM Magazine; Benchmark Litigation; PLC Which Lawyers?, and Super Lawyers, which selected him as one of the 250 top patent lawyers in the world and in the first tier of New York lawyers. In 2020,

Mr. Taylor was shortlisted for the LMG Life Sciences "Hatch-Waxman Litigator of the Year" award. Lawdragon named Mr. Taylor in its 2018 guide of the 500 Leading Lawyers in America. In 2003, he was selected by The National Law Journal as one of the nation's top trial lawyers. Mr. Taylor received an honorary doctorate degree from the State University of New York at Oswego, was President of the Board of Trustees of the Chapin School in Princeton, NJ, and is a member of the boards of New York Law School and Clark Atlanta University. He is an adjunct law professor at New York Law School and represents pro bono clients and organizations in litigation regarding juvenile sentencing and police disciplinary reform. Mr. Taylor received a Juris Doctorate degree from New York Law School, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the State University of New York at Oswego.

## *Brenda W. Walker (CC'75) (2007) Cary, North Carolina*



Brenda Walker is a leading financial investment executive with more than 25 years financial and managerial experience. She is a founding partner in 522 Capital Partners LLC (“522Capital”), the newly launched, vertically integrated commercial real estate management and investment firm. With offices in New York, North Carolina and Georgia, 522 Capital’s focus is to provide workout and recovery services that will maximize the value of its clients’ distressed real estate portfolios. The firm will also acquire distressed assets and/or partner with owners of distressed assets who are seeking liquidity. Ms. Walker has held a variety of senior management and leadership positions with major financial institutions, nonprofit and entrepreneurial entities. Prior to forming 522 Capital, she was Senior Vice President, Smith Breeden Associates, Inc., where she was

responsible for new business development and client relationships. Previous employers included the White House Council of Economic Advisors, J.P. Morgan Asset Management, MetLife, Bellemead Development Corporation, a former subsidiary of the Chubb Group, The Amelior Foundation, and the Enterprise Foundation. Ms. Walker is a member of the Leadership Council for Child & Family Health in Durham, North Carolina, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree from Clark College, Master of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Master of Business Administration degree from The Wharton School, Graduate Division, University of Pennsylvania.

## *Charmaine Ward-Millner (2020) Atlanta, Georgia*



An accomplished senior executive with a distinguished career across diverse industries, offering a rare combination of expertise in corporate philanthropy, inclusion & equity, community/government relations, and strategic marketing. Recognized for driving transformative initiatives that seamlessly integrate strategy, social impact, brand equity, and operational excellence, fueling sustained enterprise-wide growth. Charmaine was most recently vice president of marketing, communications, community relations, and community philanthropy at Kaiser Permanente Georgia, overseeing a \$64.4 million community benefit portfolio. In her previous roles in corporate philanthropy, she directed the investment of millions of dollars with national and regional partners, creating significant social impact. Charmaine has held senior-level positions with Georgia Power, Georgia-Pacific, John H. Harland, Bank of America, Showtime Networks, and IBM, where she created tremendous value within the enterprises. Charmaine’s mission is “To be a catalyst, creating positive change in individuals, organizations, and communities by making authentic connections, practicing leadership coaching, and demonstrating servant leadership.” Charmaine’s service to the community is widespread. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for Clark Atlanta University, where she serves as Co-Chair of Institutional Advancement and Chair of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta Board. She serves on the Operation Hope Regional board, the National Black MBA

Atlanta Chapter board, the NBAF Advisory Council, and the Coalition of 100 Black Women Advisory Council. Formerly, she served as secretary of the National Black MBA national board, the Atlanta Technical College Foundation Board, and the Latin Community Fund Board. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., and the National Council of Negro Women. She is also an alumna of United Way VIP, Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), Leadership Georgia, and Leadership Atlanta. In addition to her commitment to community service, Charmaine is passionate about education, professional development, and entrepreneurship. She is an adjunct professor at Georgia State University, John Maxwell Leadership Coach, International Coaching Federation Professional Certified Coach (PCC), a serial entrepreneur, and a Black Corporate Board Readiness (BCBR) Fellow. She is a doctoral candidate at Clark Atlanta University in the School of Higher Education Leadership. Charmaine graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Economics from Clark Atlanta University and earned an MBA with honors from Kennesaw State University. A native of Chicago, she is an avid reader and international travel enthusiast. She is married to Keith Millner.

## *Carolyn M. Young (2004) Atlanta, Georgia*



Mrs. Carolyn McClain Young, wife of Ambassador Andrew Young, is an outstanding educator and civic leader. As Vice Chair of the Andrew J. Young Foundation, she is the major force behind fundraising efforts and coordinating and planning events. She also serves as the Executive Director of Andrew Young Presents, the Foundation's Emmy-winning, nationally syndicated series of seventeen documentaries highlighting Africa, the Civil Rights Movement, and other social issues and themes. She notably raised an endowment of more than \$1.3 million for the Andrew Young School of Public Policy at Georgia State University, Atlanta Georgia, and is the sponsor for the Carolyn Young Mentor Walk, held the last two years at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, for the purpose of celebrating and raising community awareness for mentoring. Formerly, Mrs. Young was an executive with the Atlanta-based GoodWorks International, LLC, a leading global advisory firm offering international market access and political risk analysis in key emerging markets within Africa and the Caribbean. In this position, she functioned as co-owner for the Protocol Contact for Foreign Dignitaries responsible for planning and logistics for guests and coordination and planning of events for staff and corporate sponsors. She achieved the Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and Elementary Education from Clark College and the Master of Science degree in Elementary Education from Georgia State University. Her earlier years of service were dedicated to teaching kindergarten to 7th grades, with most of those years working with 5th graders, and served as mentor for new teachers. She was also instrumental in desegregating the faculty of the Atlanta Public Schools. She retired after 31 years of distinguished service. Mrs. Young has an extensive history for civic and community service locally, nationally and internationally. She has held one or more leadership positions with: G-Capp (founded by Jane Fonda to halt teen pregnancies); Steering Committee for the King Center's (King Week Activities);

National Committee for the Arts; Finance Committee for the City of Atlanta Celebration of Older Citizens Month; Atlanta Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Buckhead Cascade Chapter of The Links, Inc.; Union Baptist Church; the Ebony Fashion Fair (fundraiser for scholarships). Internationally, Mrs. Young has served as cosponsor of the Bethesda House (an orphanage in Soweto for children with AIDS); and the International Task Force for the Buckhead Cascade Chapter of the Links, Inc. In addition, she is a founding member and has held key positions in several organizations, to include: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women's Board; the Clark Atlanta University Guild and the Sophisticates, Atlanta Chapter. Mrs. Young presently serves on the following boards: Andrew J. Young Foundation; Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees; United Negro College Fund; Andrew & Walter Young YMCA; Atlanta Area Technical College; Previous board affiliations include: The Governor's Reform Commission for Education; Georgia Human Relations Commission; Board of the Georgia Council of Abused Children; Apex Museum; Fernbank Museum; Rabun Gap/Nocoochee School; Starlight Foundation and Literacy Action, Inc. Mrs. Young has received numerous honors and awards, to include: Atlanta Area III Teacher of the Year ('76 & '94); Southern Bell Black History Calendar "Teacher of Excellence" ('93); Georgia Teachers Incentive Award for Intermediate Grades ('93); Faithful Servant recognition by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women ('93); MASKED Award ( Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams ('89); Outstanding United Negro College Fund Volunteer ('89) and most recently, she received the Lady Who Leads Award and was Honoree at the Legacy Ladies Tea. Mrs. Young is the daughter of the late Mrs. Dorothy Harden and the late Moses Harden and she resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

## *George T. French, Ph.D. President Clark Atlanta University*



In 2019, George T. French Jr. became the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University, the largest United Negro College Fund (UNCF) member institution in the country and the largest private HBCU within the state of Georgia.

Prior to his appointment, French served for 14 years as the president of Miles College, making him one of the longest serving university presidents in the nation. A nationally recognized leader and influencer in higher education and educational policy, French has served three secretaries of education under two United States presidents as a congressional appointee to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

He is a three-term board member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); Chair of the Atlanta University Center (Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College and Morehouse School of Medicine,) Council of Presidents; and chair of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAC) Council of Presidents and member of the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC) Board of Directors. French also has served as a member of the national diverse council of Regions Bank since 2011.

Education: University of Louisville, Miles Law School (J.D.), Jackson State University (Ph.D.)

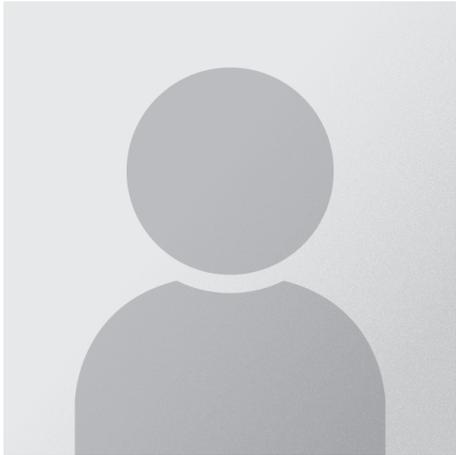
Notable achievements: Under French's leadership Clark Atlanta University has exponentially exceeded all fundraising records in the history of the university; maintained stable enrollment in the midst of global pandemic and developed corporate and community relationships to position the university for unprecedented growth.

His awards include Birmingham Spotlight Man of the Year, NAACP Man of the Year, and the Higher Education Leadership Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.



# CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

*Shaundra Clay (2025) New York, New York*



*Representative On behalf of the United Methodist Church (2020)*

*Rev. Dr. Michael T. McQueen South Central District, North Georgia Conference Atlanta, Georgia*



The Reverend Dr. Michael McQueen is senior pastor of St. James Methodist Church. Cited as one of the fastest growing congregations, church membership has expanded from 1,500 to 3,500 members and more than 36 ministries since his arrival in 2006. Prior to his recent appointment as District Superintendent of the Central North District, North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church and his current pastorate, Rev. McQueen served as Senior Pastor at Ousley Methodist Church in Lithonia, Georgia, Associate and Senior Associate Pastor at Ben Hill United Methodist Church, where he served as Coordinator for Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, for which he received the 2000 Award of Excellence as a Congregation Resource Center. Rev. Dr. McQueen has developed Minister in Training programs globally to train and equip local clergy to build homes. He has traveled to Zimbabwe, South Africa, the Bahamas, and the Philippines, to Kenya to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS and build mud homes, and worked to develop ministries and medical missions, ministering to over 800 Haitians. He includes among his

Board memberships the North Georgia Board of Pensions, Georgia Tech Wesley Foundation, Committee on Congregational Development, North Georgia Conference Black Church Development Committee, United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union, Simpsonwood Board, Youth Hope Builders Academy, the United Methodist Children's Home, Kings Ridge Christian School, Faith Journey, Atlanta Roswell District Committee of Ordained Ministry. A Philadelphia native, Dr. McQueen is a graduate of Drexel University. He was awarded the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees, with honors, from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), where he has served as adjunct professor. In addition, Dr. McQueen has served on staff in the area of Contextual Education, at the Emory University Candler School of Theology. Dr. McQueen is married to Wanda McQueen, and is the "proud" father of two sons and grandfather of one granddaughter. He enjoys reading, walking, and spending time with family.

# CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES



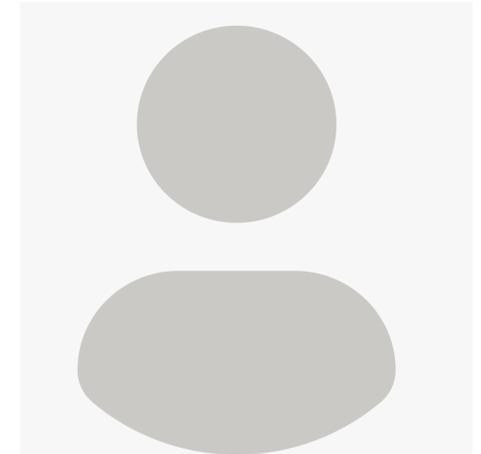
*Dr. Gerry White*

**Faculty Assembly  
Chair**



*Dr. Kasim Alli*

**Faculty  
Representative**



*Vacant*

**Faculty  
Representative**



*Mr. John Young*

**Staff Assembly  
President**

# CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**



*Javari Carlton*

**SGA Undergraduate  
President**



*Forvis McGee*

**SGA Graduate  
President**