

# Cohort 16 Students

## **TAMARA DAMBREVILLE**

*(MANAGEMENT)*



My name is Tamara Dambreville. I am a seasoned professional in the field of Total Rewards, with a robust background in business administration. My career spans over a decade, during which I have held pivotal roles in leading organizations such as Maven Clinic, Chief, 360Learning, Snapdocs, and BrandSafway. As Senior Manager, Global Total Rewards at Chief, I was instrumental in designing and implementing the company's Total Rewards philosophy, ensuring equitable compensation practices, and enhancing employee understanding of reward programs. My tenure at 360Learning saw me managing equity plans, overseeing promotion cycles, and supporting M&A activities. At Snapdocs, I spearheaded initiatives to create equitable pay practices and implemented new HRIS systems. I hold a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the University of Georgia.

Beyond my professional life, I enjoy my family life in Kennesaw, Georgia. I am a devoted mother of two and spend my free time engaging in various hobbies such as hiking, reading, and volunteering in my community. I am eager to further my research and academic pursuits in the Ph.D. program in Business Administration at Kennesaw State University.

# KRYSTAL TRONE

*(MANAGEMENT)*



Krystal L. Trone is a professional in academia and business, currently serving as a Grant Research Specialist and faculty member in the Percy J. Vaughn Jr. College of Business at Alabama State University. She holds a Master of Business Administration with a focus on Project Management from Alabama State University and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, graduating magna cum laude with a minor in Political Science.

In her role as a Grant Research Specialist, Krystal excels in reviewing proposals for compliance, seeking new funding opportunities, and assisting faculty with grant writing and submission. Her collaborative approach has led to the successful development and execution of numerous research and grant proposals.

As a faculty member, Krystal teaches courses in International Business and Business Communication. She is dedicated to student success, offering tutoring and training for NASBITE's Global Business Certification and FINRA's Securities Industry Essentials exams.

She is a certified NASBITE International Global Business Professional and holds the NCURA National Council of University Research Administrators certification.

With years of experience as an Assistant General Manager in the hospitality industry, Krystal trained employees, maintained safety and food quality standards, and managed operational costs. She also has experience in the construction industry as an Assistant Project Manager.

Krystal is actively engaged in community service, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, the Montgomery Humane Society, and AGAPE as a youth leader and role model. She is a mother of three boys and enjoys reading, fishing, and hiking in her free time. Her blend of academic expertise, practical management experience, and community involvement makes her a well-rounded and highly capable professional.

# **SANDY GORE**

*(MANAGEMENT)*



Hi, my name is Sandy Gore. I am the Director of Transportation and Environmental Health & Safety at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Professional Master's degree in Occupational Safety and Health. I have always had a keen interest in micro-level research factors that affect an organization's performance. I am interested in learning more about how organizational behavior and human resource factors impact organizational performance. I love to travel and shop.

# **BENJAMIN KWESI AYE-ADDO**

*(MANAGEMENT)*



My name is Benjamin Aye-Addo. I have about Seventeen years of work experience in the higher education environment in the United States. I currently work in the Office of Information Technology Strategic Planning (ITSP) at the University of West Georgia. Prior to joining the office of ITSP, I was Client Services Manager in the IT Department at UWG. Until I moved to the United States of America, I worked on major high, medium, and low voltage electricity infrastructure projects in Ghana with Volta River Authority (VRA). VRA is government of Ghana owned power generation company in Ghana. I obtained my bachelor's degree and my Master of Business Administration degree from University of West Georgia. In addition, I hold a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque in Iowa. Strategic

Management is my area of focus in this PhD. program at Kennesaw State University (KSU). Research into globalization of small businesses, especially small businesses from emerging economies, is where my research interest lies. I am an ordained Teaching Elder, a Minister of the Word and Sacrament (Pastor). I am married with children. I enjoy teaching and preaching the word of God and traveling.

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## **CHARSHAE L. MARSHALL-PHILLIPS**

*(MARKETING)*



Charshae LaShar Marshall-Phillips is a professional with over 20 years of experience spanning non-profit work under Housing and Urban Development, higher education at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW), and business ownership. She has dedicated her career to improving the lives of those around her and fostering a community of support and growth.

Professionally, Charshae serves as an Adjunct Professor at the UNCW, where she shares her extensive knowledge and passion for marketing with her students. Her commitment to education is further evidenced by her academic achievements, holding both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Finance) and an Executive Master's Degree in Business Administration (Finance) from UNCW. Her desire to expand her understanding of marketing and artificial intelligence (AI) has led her to pursue a Ph.D. in Business Administration at Kennesaw State University, with research focused on AI's impact on consumer trust in sales

communications and transactions.

Charshae's dedication extends beyond the classroom. As a business owner and an active community member, she tirelessly works to provide resources and support to low-income families, veterans, and young girls, aiming to eliminate barriers that lead to poverty. Her involvement with her church is a testament to her faith and commitment to service, working closely with her pastors to ensure the smooth operations of the church.

In her personal life, Charshae is a devoted wife to Alonzo Phillips, with whom she has shared 24 wonderful years of marriage, and a loving mother to their three beautiful children. She finds joy in traveling, singing, spending quality time with her family, playing board games, and collecting jewelry.

Charshae's multifaceted career and personal interests reflect her unwavering dedication to making a positive impact on the world around her, driven by her faith and passion for helping others.

# KATHERINE MORGAN

*(MARKETING)*



Hello, I'm a seasoned Data Science and Research Consultant with over a decade of experience across healthcare, retail, travel, and hospitality sectors. Currently, I lead the research department for a healthcare marketing agency, overseeing all research studies end-to-end, developing new research capabilities, and contributing to thought leadership research published by the agency. My passion lies in blending research and data science to better understand consumer behavior, ultimately driving more effective and ethical marketing strategies in healthcare. Marketing is often about influencing customers' choices, which directly affect their well-being in healthcare, so effective communication becomes paramount. From my experience, it's not merely about promoting services; it's about educating the public, dispelling myths, and ensuring individuals make informed healthcare decisions. I aim for my research to continue focusing on marketing in the healthcare sector to further enhance these efforts.

I hold a Master's degree in Applied Statistics from Kennesaw State University and have pursued various continuing education courses, most recently completing an Applied Data Science Certification from MIT Professional Education. Growing up as an Air Force "brat," with my mother, a retired PhD Col., instilled in me a strong sense of discipline and adaptability. This unique upbringing provided me with diverse experiences and perspectives that have enriched both my personal and professional life.

In my personal life, I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and my dog, Archimedes, hiking and exploring wineries and breweries. While I don't get to participate as often as I would like, I have a deep love for ballroom dancing.

# AALIYAH WILKERSON

*(MARKETING)*



Hello, I'm Aaliyah W. Wilkerson, a passionate storyteller and marketing professional currently serving as the Associate Director of Admissions Marketing at Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. My journey in communications began with a Bachelor of Science in Broadcast Journalism from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), where I honed my skills as a broadcast and print journalist. This experience ignited my passion for brand storytelling and led me to pursue a Master of Science in Integrated Marketing and Communications from West Virginia University.

I've leveraged my journalism and video production background to excel in marketing and communications. At FAMU, I was the first Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the housing department, building the brand from scratch. As Digital Marketing Manager for University Communications, I assisted in developing the University's presence in the Metaverse. I explored digital strategies to engage Generation Z. I've also led social

media strategy and live event coverage for the National Association of Black Journalists' annual conference.

Every brand has a story; my mission is to tell these stories with journalistic dedication. This commitment extends to my personal life, where giving back is central. Since moving to central Georgia, I've started a marketing and communications internship program to help youth tell their stories. On the weekends, you can find me with my Little from Big Sisters Big Brothers, crocheting, spending time with my church family or being a devoted dog mom.

From my experience working with organizations to understand marketing's impact on underserved communities, my research interest includes Consumer Behavior, specifically the marketing and communications industry's role in positively impacting consumers' mental health.

I look forward to continuing my journey in the Ph.D. program and connecting with fellow scholars to make a positive impact through our work.

# KERRY-ANN FORBES

*(MARKETING)*



Kerry-Ann Forbes is currently a tutor at The Princeton Review and is in the process of seeking employment in Georgia as she has plans to relocate to the state. Kerry-Ann's past experiences include being a marketing manager at SOCAPUSA, sales manager at Musson Jamaica Ltd, Key Account Executive at Philip Morris International, Financial and Commercial Manager at Diageo (Red Stripe) and was in banking for seven years prior. In addition to her experiences, Kerry-Ann completed a bachelor's degree in international relations in 2006, an MBA in international business from the Mona School of Business (UWI Jamaica) in 2011, a MSc in marketing communication management from Manhattanville College in 2020 with a 4.0 GPA and she also holds two professional certificates from Cornell University Online in digital marketing and data driven marketing, and one from Harvard University Online in business analytics. Kerry-Ann will be pursuing a PhD in Business Administration- marketing concentration, her research interest will

look at the impact of isomorphic pressure on sustainable competitive advantage: from the perspective of intellectual capital from the resource-based view.

Kerry-Ann is result driven and a handworker with a positive attitude. Her daily inspiration comes from her three children, as they are the motivation behind all her accomplishments. During her free time, Kerry-Ann enjoys doing outdoor activities, reading, and most importantly spending time with her children. In addition, she enjoys helping others as she knows what it is like to be impoverished. She used education to change her life and now wants to offer that opportunity to less fortunate children in her home country of Jamaica. She has, therefore decided to work on a medium to long term goal of starting a charity in Jamaica that will assist children from low socioeconomic backgrounds with having access to education by offering financial assistance.

# CORY JACKSON

*(MARKETING)*



Cory Jackson has more than 20 years of experience in the financial services industry and he joined BB&T now Truist in 2015. Jackson has served as a Community Business Development Officer, Retail Small Business Leader for the Northern GA Region, and was promoted to SVP/Virtual Retail Banking and Associate Banking Manager for the EMSEG Enterprise in 2018.

Jackson earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Georgia Southern University and his Executive MBA from Mercer University's Stetson School of Business. Mercer selected him to lecture as an adjunct professor in 2013 and he currently serves on the Trustee Board for the University.

Cory and his wife Kay started Sandy Springs Janitorial Services in 2012 and later entered into a joint venture with ABM Industries which is the largest facilities management company in the US (trade: ABM). This joint venture eventually secured the cleaning contract for Coke Headquarters USA in Atlanta GA and was responsible for their 2 million sq. ft. campus.

Jackson previously served as a board member for the Sandy Springs Rotary Club, Leadership Sandy Springs, 100 Black Men of DeKalb County, Youth Leadership Sandy Springs (founding member), and ART's Sandy Springs. In addition, he served as Chairman for the Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber in 2013.

Jackson currently resides in Stone Mountain, GA with his wife Kay, daughter J'Adore, son Hunter, and their Yorkie Jax.

# JAYABHUSHAN PRANEETH PALLEPOGU

*(INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS)*



My name is Jayabhushan Praneeth Pallegogu. As an IT professional, I have assimilated 15 years of experience and gained expertise in different facets of Product Management. I started my career as a Senior Associate Consultant at Infosys and have been working as a Product Manager at Progment Technologies Pvt Ltd until July, 2024. My Bachelor of Technology degree from JNTU followed by an MBA from IIT, Kanpur has allowed me to acquire an interdisciplinary knowledge base combining both technology and business.

My Research Interest is, "Impact of AI on the decision making of the employees in Organizations."

Along with my professional career, I have managed the operations of my NGO Ray of Hope which I founded in 2007. This experience has significantly contributed to my personal growth and taught me important lessons about empathy and providing a supporting hand to uplift the underprivileged sections of my community. Our NGO focuses on empowering women by offering skill training in tailoring, spoken

English, and painting. I fervently support women's rights and empowerment, acknowledging the critical need for equality on a national level.

An incident that gave me more confidence in my cause was my meeting with Hollywood filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan. We collaborated on a project to renovate a school building for homeless kids.

Another major incident that contributed to my personal development was my elder brother's untimely demise due to cancer. Seeing him struggle with depression caused by his condition was heartbreaking and emotionally moving. To support people who were going through similar mental health issues, I wrote a self-help book titled 'Praneeth's Pearls of Wisdom' which was ranked number one on Amazon, India under the Counseling section. Dancing and writing are my hobbies.

I'm blessed to be part of a loving and supporting family which includes my parents, two brothers and sisters-in-law, a niece and a nephew.

# THABILE BROWN

*(INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS)*



My name is Thabile Tshatedi Brown, born and raised in Zimbabwe. I was awarded a full athletic (tennis) scholarship for my undergraduate studies where I majored in Human Resources and minored in Psychology. I hold an MBA with a focus on Accounting and Finance from Lipscomb University. I'm currently working as a Project Coordinator at Speciality Dental Brands in Nashville, TN, where I manage and coordinate various projects to ensure they completed on time and within budget.

I'm also actively involved in Elysian Event Productions, our family-owned business in Zimbabwe. I develop event budgets, create business proposals, and improve our digital presence through strategic social media and website enhancements.

My research interests include IT resource optimization, process improvement, and healthcare application efficiency.

Spending time with my family and friends is very important to me. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time outdoors, journaling, doing devotionals, traveling with my husband, and both playing and watching sports.

# CHARMAINE BARNES

*(ACCOUNTING)*



My name is Charmaine Barnes. Currently working as an accountant at Georgia Gwinnett College, my research interest is in Accounting - Auditing. My educational background includes a Master of Science in Professional Accounting from Georgia State University.

I am Jamaican and I live with my family in Lawrenceville GA. I enjoy writing, have written and published a memoir which is sold on Amazon and distributed in all Parish libraries in Jamaica. I founded a 501 (c) 3 organization and recently provided support for school lunch program for needy children in Jamaica.

I play competitive badminton and I love to walk the trails.

# NATHAN CRUSE

*(ACCOUNTING)*

Over the past 15+ years, I have earned a Bachelor of Finance from Murray State University and a Bachelor of Accounting from Auburn University, founded VE Websites—a web design and development company—pursued a Masters of Accountancy from Auburn University, and briefly served as the accounting and finance manager for an electrical distribution company.

My areas of interest in accounting research include corporate governance and audit for publicly traded companies. Currently, I plan to study the impact a code of ethics for financial officers can have on an organization's financials.



I have been married to my wonderful wife, Virginia, for the past sixteen years, and we have an eight-year-old son, Elijah. As a family, we enjoy spending time together, traveling, supporting Elijah's endeavors, and relaxing at home.

After completing my PhD, I hope to apply my background in accounting, finance, and entrepreneurship in academia as a researcher and teacher.

# **LONG PHAM**

*(ACCOUNTING)*



Long Pham graduated with a bachelor's degree in commercial banking in 1998 from National Economics University in Vietnam and bachelor's degree in English in 1999 from Hanoi University in Vietnam. He earned MBA in international business in 2003 from the University of Thai Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok, Thailand. He graduated from New Mexico State University in 2011 with two degrees - PhD in management with concentration on operations management and master's degree in applied statistics. In addition, he earned master's degree in accountancy in 2023 from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and MBA with concentration in international banking and finance in 2024 from Texas A&M International University.

# LEAH HAN

*(ACCOUNTING)*



My name is Leah K. Han. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Florida and a Master's in Accounting from Georgia State University. I have worked in public accounting, as well as in securities and financial firms, in various roles. As a CPA, I have owned and operated my own accounting firm since 2017, advising clients on a wide range of accounting and tax matters. In addition to my practice, I share my expertise as an adjunct instructor at Gwinnett Technical College and as a facilitator for Cornell University.

I am now seeking to transition into academia full-time, with the goal of dedicating my career to research and teaching. My research focuses on the rapidly evolving world of digital assets, particularly their policies, regulations, and accounting practices. This field fascinates

me as it combines technology and finance, reflecting the ongoing shifts in our digital economy.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy watching independent films, reading, cooking, and meditating—activities that provide a creative outlet and help me maintain balance. Family is central to my happiness. My husband, Sahng Min, Ph.D., has been my greatest supporter as I pursue this next step in my academic journey. I also cherish the time I spend with our two dogs, Minky and Eddie, who bring immense joy and companionship to our lives.

I am thrilled to join KSU and excited about the opportunities ahead.