



**KENNESAW STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

# **ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

BIOGRAPHY BOOK | 2025 - 2026

RESPECT | INTEGRITY | COLLABORATION | INCLUSIVITY | ACCOUNTABILITY

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends,

**I am delighted to welcome you to Kennesaw State University's College of Architecture and Construction Management (CACM). Our college is home to more than 80 talented and dedicated faculty and staff, and more than 1500 excellent students, who represent the future of the college's two disciplines: Architecture and Construction Management. CACM is also home to the largest professionally accredited programs in both architecture and construction management in the state of Georgia.**

Our college plays a critical role in creatively shaping the future of our communities while improving their present conditions. Through our educational mission, we prepare our students for future careers in our built environment disciplines through which they can help address our societal challenges in innovative and creative ways. Through our research, scholarship and creative activities mission, we advance society's appreciation of the importance of the built environment and the value of design and creativity, and we produce and disseminate new knowledge in the theory and practice of our disciplines. Through our community engagement mission, we have a direct impact on improving our local communities and enhancing the quality of life of community members, while providing students with meaningful and influential experiential opportunities for learning. We are educators, designers, scholars, researchers, and professionals. We are committed to providing our students with the best learning experiences possible and to improving our disciplines, professions, and communities. We believe in collaboration as the only means to effectively tackle the complex challenges facing our communities.

Through the support of our alumni and partners, we aim to establish CACM as a leader in built environment education, research and community engagement. We aim to integrate state-of-the-art technology, such as AR/VR, Robotics, AI and others, into our teaching and research activities. We aim to use Atlanta as a living lab through which we can play an effective role in meeting the challenges facing our urban areas. As dean, my goal is to encourage and enable collaboration between our college's two disciplines and to provide our students, faculty and staff with the support and tools needed for innovation in all three components of our mission: teaching, research, and community engagement. Financial support from our alumni and partners will help us provide students with needed scholarships and internships and to develop innovative study abroad, design build, and other community engagement and experiential learning programs. This support will also allow us to enable faculty to pursue impactful research activities through endowed professorships and developing a stronger research infrastructure within the college. These are just examples of the many opportunities to become an active member of our community and help the college chart the next phase of our exciting journey of success. We invite you to visit our college and to participate in the conversations and actions that help us achieve our missions and objectives.

With my best wishes,

Hazem Rashed-Ali, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor  
College of Architecture and Construction Management  
Kennesaw State University  
hrasheda@kennesaw.edu



# ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

BIOGRAPHY BOOK | 2025 - 2026

Melissa Cantrell

Patrick Chopson

Jim Croft

Don Davidson

Joyce Fownes

Richard Fredlund

Dan Garcia

Jason Hughes

David Millican

Brian Newsome

Bree Pattillo

Jeffrey M. Smith

Laura Shue

R. RANDALL HALL



# MELISSA CANTRELL

## EDUCATION

Master of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Science, Georgia Institute of Technology

## EMPLOYER

CDH Partners

## JOB TITLE

President and CEO

## OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Handles operations to establish short and long-term goals, plans, and strategies, as well as resourcing, employee growth, and budgets. As the first female executive of CDH, Melissa moved the dial to garner more than 50% female ownership and leadership in less than three years in her position at CDH Partners an often-unheard-of feat in a predominantly male-led industry.

She has been named a 2022 Globe Street Magazine Woman of Influence, been featured on Business RadioX Podcast, and held a variety of leadership positions within the community and industry groups. A recognized author, speaker, and thought leader in the development of Future Ready Schools in the Georgia Education Market. She has won multiple design awards in this market segment. Melissa is the principal of CDH's Education + Research studio - ensuring resources and managing designs.

As the Principal, Melissa has built her career upon delivering innovative architectural design and master planning to public and private educational clients. Her comprehensive experience has equipped her with an expansive understanding of the challenges facing today's educational facilities.

Melissa has created an environment that is inclusive, forward-thinking, and familial. Our employee retention and tenure rates are exceptional for the industry - with most of our staff averaging 15 years with CDH.

## VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Cobb Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors  
Georgia Association of Physical Plant Administrators (GAPPA)  
Georgia Association of School Facility Administrators (GASFA)  
Georgia Chapter of the Association for Learning Environments (formerly CEFPI), Board Member, Treasurer  
Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers, Board Member  
Kennesaw State University, Department of Architecture, Advisory Board  
Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board  
Marietta High School Architecture Program Advisory Council, Member  
Select Cobb, Member  
United States Green Building Council (USGBC)



# PATRICK CHOPSON

## EDUCATION

Master of High Performance Building, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Architecture, Southern Polytechnic State University

## EMPLOYER

Cove Tool, Inc.

## JOB TITLE

Co-Founder, Chief Product Officer

## OVERVIEW AND ROLE

An innovative suite of simulation-based software transforming the building industry through data analytics, AI, and generative design. A driving force for product innovation. Patrick is dedicated to harnessing technology and data for decarbonization and sustainable, high-performance buildings and cities.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Prior to Cove Tool, Patrick led a successful building performance consulting and architecture firm.

## VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Kennesaw State University College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board



## JIM CROFT

### EDUCATION

Master of Science, Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Science, Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology

### EMPLOYER

Croft

### JOB TITLE

Founder and CEO

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Croft is a full-service architecture and engineering firm that is focused locally but serves national in many diverse markets of the public and private sectors including government, educational, church, mission critical, industrial, healthcare, hospitality, and mixed-use market sectors. Providing excellent service is at the center of our culture, service to our clients, to our people, and to our community. We are driven by forging strong relationships, and with our tailored solutions and proven processes, we strive to finish each endeavor with closer relationships than when we started.

As owner my responsibilities include Vision Casting, Relationship Development, Enterprise Problem Solver, Encourager, Design Architect, Leadership Developer.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Kennesaw State University College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board



## **DONALD “DON” DAVIDSON**

### **EDUCATION**

Southern Technical Institute, Florida

### **RETIRED**

Inglett & Stubbs, LLC

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Mr. Davidson graduated from STI with a degree in Architectural Engineering and spent his entire 41-year career in the electrical Construction industry in Atlanta. At the time of his retirement, he served as President/CEO of Inglett & Stubbs Electrical Construction Company widely recognized as a leader in the industry throughout the US and beyond. During those years he served on numerous community and industry related boards and committees. He and his wife continue to support students in Architectural and Construction management departments through the Davidson Family Endowed Scholarship along with other student related scholarship programs.

### **KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATIONS**

Participated in and served as Chairman of SPSU Construction Management Industry Advisory Board, served as a member and Chairman of SPSU Foundation Board of Trustees, Served on SPSU Alumni Society leadership council, KSU CACM leadership advisory council and currently serves on KSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

### **FAMILY**

The Davidsons have three children, Carolyn OzVath located in Oklahoma, Phillip Davidson located in Colorado and Katharyn (Katie) Vann located in Alpharetta. Katie is an SPSU Construction Management graduate and followed in her father's footsteps serving as a Senior PM at Inglett & Stubbs specializing in healthcare.

### **SPOUSE**

Carolyn "Toni" Davidson



# JOYCE FOWNES

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Interior Architecture, The University of Georgia

## EMPLOYER

Corgan, Atlanta, GA

## JOB TITLE

Principal, Officer Director, Interiors Studio Leader

## OVERVIEW AND ROLE

With an eye for beauty and unrealized opportunity, Joyce augments her clients' visions and manifests them as truly innovative spaces. For Joyce, life is about pushing boundaries and us, which is one thing she values most about working at Corgan. "We strive to consistently challenge the way things have been done by studying and developing new approaches,". Joyce's primary role is the leadership of workplace interiors in Atlanta, she also manages the Atlanta office. After 42 years in the industry that has allowed her to pursue her passion for art, life has come full circle for Joyce, whose daughter chose to follow a similar path. "My daughter has always been at the core of my world and a point of inspiration," she says. "She, too, is an interior designer, practicing in a thriving residential firm."

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Perkins & Wills, Principal Director of Interiors

## VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Past President, American Society of Interior Designers – ASID)

Kennesaw State University, Department of Architecture, Advisory Board

Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

Beyond her passion for fine art, horseback riding, and the environment, Joyce finds inspiration from traveling and seeing the world. "Seeing beautiful buildings and landscapes, this is what gets me excited about the future and how being re-inspired by this will influence the way I look at the future."





## RICHARD FREDLUND

### EDUCATION

Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Science, Georgia Institute of Technology

### RETIRED

Cooper Carry, Inc., AIA Emeritus, LEED AP - Associate Principal

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Richard worked for four different Architectural firms during his forty plus year career. Rick's career focused on Higher Education for the last thirty years, completing projects on eighteen University campuses across five States. (Berry, Duke, Emory, FAMU, GA Tech, GCSU, GHC, GSU, KSU, Mercer, UGA, UMD, UNG, & UVA). His passion is building envelope design, focusing on the craftsmanship and workmanship necessary to construct building envelopes, which are beautiful to look at, yet airtight, watertight, and energy efficient.

Rick completed projects for Kennesaw State University on both the Kennesaw campus, (Prillaman Health Sciences Building & Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation & Activities Center), and the Marietta campus (Engineering Technology Center, Design I & Design II Buildings) renovations.

Rick has represented Cooper Carry with sponsorship of the "Cooper Carry Three Minute Thesis Competition" for KSU fifth year Architecture thesis students.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Haines Lundberg Waehler, Miller Waltz Deitrich, Cavitt Brownlee Milam, and Cooper Carry. Rick joined Cooper Carry in 1981, and spent more than forty years as an Architect, project manager and construction manager, on a wide range of institutional and private sector projects, for developers, school systems, universities, and government entities.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Rick has volunteered on the KSU Architecture Advisory Board, and currently serves on the College of Architecture & Construction Management Advisory Board. He is a registered architect in three states, Georgia, Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and holds national certification by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). He is member Emeritus of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), is a LEED Accredited Professional by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC LEED AP). Rick has served as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Alpha Rho Chapter, of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity at Georgia Tech, and is a 45-year member of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

### FAMILY

Rick has been married to his wife Pamela for 43 years and has three grown children, Will, Tyler, and Kirsten.



## DAN GARCIA

### EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration, Mercer University Stetson School of Business and Economics  
Bachelor of Science (Civil Engineering), The Citadel

### EMPLOYER

C.W.Matthews, Inc.

### JOB TITLE

President and CEO

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Dan Garcia is the President of C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, the largest Heavy Highway construction company based in Georgia, with revenues in excess of \$700 Million per year. His expertise involves all facets of construction management, but his passion for the industry comes from building projects that have an impact in the community and for the people constructing these projects.

Dan was born in Caracas, Venezuela and moved to the United States at the age of 17 to attend The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. Dan attends St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marietta, Georgia.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Board Member  
Georgia Highway Contractors Association, Board Members  
Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board  
North Cobb Christian School, Board Member  
Youth in Mission and Extra Special People

### FAMILY

Married to his wife Debbie for 25 years, and has 5 children.



# JASON HUGHES

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Construction, Southern Polytechnic State University

## EMPLOYER

IMPACT Development Management

## JOB TITLE

President

## OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Jason is a dynamic and well-rounded leader who can appreciate the perspective of contractors, investors, and owners. With an undergraduate degree in construction management from Kennesaw State University, Jason spent the early part of his career as a project manager for one of Atlanta's top commercial contracting firms. As Owner's Representative for Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Jason's comprehensive perspective helped guide the \$1.6 billion program to successful completion. As President of IMPACT, he provides strategic direction, oversees day-to-day operations, supports his business partners in project management efforts, and ensures projects have proper resources available to succeed. Jason offers a comprehensive perspective into the sports market, including relationships, lessons learned, and best practices. A champion of culture, he instinctively knows how to motivate teams around a common goal. Jason's welcoming and friendly nature make him a called-upon resource for employees, clients, and industry partners.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

IMPACT Development Management (President) 2018-2023; Senior Vice President – 2017-2018; Vice President (2015-2017)

## VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Cumberland Area Council, Board Member

Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board

Rebuilding Together Atlanta, Board Member

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

Playing golf and spending time with family.

## FAMILY

Jason has two children, son, Hudson and daughter, Henley Rae.



## DAVID MILLICAN

### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Architectural Engineering, Southern Polytechnic State University  
Master of Business Administration, Stanford University

### EMPLOYER

Chick-fil-A Corporate Support Center, Atlanta, GA

### JOB TITLE

Vice President, Restaurant Development Services Operations

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

David has now stepped into his current role as VP for Restaurant Development Services Operations. He serves on cross-departmental teams. Lead, direct, and set strategy for facilities and equipment operations for \$3+ billion in physical assets. Responsible for managing \$215M budget.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

David worked for 20 years in the construction industry - as the owner of a commercial general contractor business- before beginning his work with Chick-fil-A. In 2003, he began working with the Facilities Management Group as an independent field consultant. Seven years later, he joined the corporate Chick-fil-A staff and began leading the Facilities Management team.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Kennesaw State University, Department of Construction Management, Chair, CM Industry Advisory Board  
Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board,  
Kennesaw State University, Executive Committee Board, Chairperson  
Midwest Food Bank, Member

### PERSONAL INTERESTS

Sailing, fishing, and serving with NGOs.

### FAMILY

Married to wife Lori, has three boys, Parker, Preston, and Davis.



## BRIAN NEWSOME

### EDUCATION

University of Florida

### EMPLOYER

Albion General Contractors, Inc.

### JOB TITLE

Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Brian brings more than 30 years of executive leadership to the Albion team. A co-founder of Albion General Contractors, Inc., he is responsible for the overall Field Operations and has been involved in every project the company pursues. His disciplined, skilled approach has earned him accolades in every job. A superb communicator, it's Brian's willingness to listen and understand his clients' individual needs that has made his company so successful. Project pricing, budgeting, scheduling, cost management and strategic planning are his forte. His number one goal for every job is simple: satisfied clients. He believes that is the best and only way to build a successful business.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

President of the Board of Directors, Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc. (AGC Georgia)  
Past President of the Board, The Center for Children and Young Adults  
Advisory Board, Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management

### PERSONAL INTERESTS

Fishing, Sailing, Scuba Diving, Skiing

### FAMILY

Married (Kim) and has 4 children (Savannah, Maria, Zachary, and Joshua).



## BREE PATTILLO

### EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration and Management, The Citadel  
Bachelor of Science (Construction Management), Kennesaw State University

### EMPLOYER

Pattillo Construction Corporation

### JOB TITLE

CEO and Owner

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Bree Pattillo is an Atlanta native who grew up on construction job sites watching her grandfather, H.G. Pattillo build the company she now runs. Today, she continues to grow the family legacy as the fourth-generation owner of the 73-year old industry leading Pattillo Construction Corporation. Under her leadership, Pattillo Construction continues to strategically grown and evolve as a general contractor throughout the Southeast.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

After receiving her MBA from Citadel in Charleston, SC, Bree began as a Project Manager. After gaining construction industry experience in project management and civil work, Bree was ready to take over the family business as CEO and Chairman of the Board in 2015 and helmed the transition from being an in-house construction company to being a stand-alone general contractor. The separation launched a complete rebrand as Pattillo 4.0, expanding its client base to outside developers and brokers to compete in the industrial market. Now holding over 25 years of construction experience, Bree continues to grow Pattillo's reputation as a woman-owned business.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Associated Builders and Contractors, Georgia & Carolinas Chapters, Member  
Certified Women-Owner business Enterprise  
General Contractor License in GA, TN, SC, NC, VA, AL, WV, MS  
Guanacaste Ventures US, Inc – Chairman of the Board  
Hacienda Pinilla – President (2011 - 2014)  
Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board  
Leadership Georgia, Alumnae  
Numerous Educational Nonprofit Organizations in the US and Costa Rica  
USGBS Georgia, LEED AP Building Design & Construction Certification (LEED AP BD+C)

### PERSONAL INTERESTS

Traveling, cooking, reading, and hiking

### FAMILY

Married to husband Cal Abel (18 years); has two children Copelan and Zadie.





## JEFFREY M. SMITH

### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Notre Dame

### EMPLOYER

Niles Bolton Associates

### JOB TITLE

President

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Niles Bolton Associates (NBA) is a multi-disciplinary design firm founded in 1975. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia with an additional office in Alexandria, Virginia, the firm has completed projects in 48 states and 16 countries. As a registered architect in 17 states, Jeff directs a staff of over 150 who have developed a national reputation for work in mixed-use developments, multi-family housing, student housing, transportation, retail, universities, clubhouses, senior housing, general aviation facilities, hotels, and resorts.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Over the course of his 35+ years with the firm, Jeff has worked extensively on the design of large-scale university developments, among them the 1996 Olympic Village for Georgia State University, a 2,279-bed campus village for San Jose State University, the LEED Gold certified housing complex for Cal Poly and the Rutgers University live/learn center. His latest focus is on complex multi-use projects that incorporate residential, retail, and commercial spaces.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

American Institute of Architects  
Design-Build Institute of America  
Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board  
Marietta Country Club, Grounds Committee  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
Planning Committee of the Marietta First Presbyterian Church  
Society of College and University Planning

### FAMILY

Reside in Marietta, GA and has two grown sons.



## LAURA SHUE

### EDUCATION

BARCH, Bachelor of Architecture, Auburn University  
BIA, Bachelor of Interior Architecture, Auburn University  
Master of Science, Interior Architecture, Boston Architectural College

### EMPLOYER

TVS

### JOB TITLE

Managing Director

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

As a Managing Director at TVS, Laura works as a member of the firm's executive leadership team to manage practice operations with an emphasis on recruitment, staffing, and talent development. She also remains engaged as an architect and interior designer working with clients and projects in the Education + Institutional market at TVS.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Laura first joined TVS in 2006 and has developed a diverse portfolio of project experience and practices in both architecture and interior design. She specializes in education and institutional projects and brings experience in high education, K -12, religious, performing arts, office, convention center, mixed-use, and master plan projects, both domestic and international in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. To these projects she has added a unique dimension of managing processes and design methods and enjoys focusing on the user experience and interior architectural environment particularly through working with clients in the programming and planning stages.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

Board Member, Auburn University, College of Architecture Design and Construction,  
School of Architecture, Advisory Board  
Adjunct Faculty, Boston Architectural College  
Kennesaw State University, College of Architecture and Construction Management, Advisory Board

### PERSONAL AFFILIATION

Member, American Institute of Architects (AIA)  
Member, International Interior Design Association (IIDA)  
Member, Society of College and University Planners (SCUP)  
Adjunct Faculty Member, Boston Architectural College

### PERSONAL INTERESTS

CrossFit and weightlifting, travel, learning languages, and spending quality time with family.

### FAMILY

Married to Dustin (architect and Auburn graduate); two daughters Mei and Vivian.





## R. RANDALL HALL

### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Auburn University

### EMPLOYER

Batson-Cook

### JOB TITLE

President and CEO

### OVERVIEW AND ROLE

Randy Hall has been president and CEO of Batson-Cook since 2013. He became the sixth president of the century-old general contracting firm in 2012 and was named CEO a year later. He carries ultimate responsibility for the firm's strategic planning, business development, preconstruction services, and construction operations.

Randy guides the company by combining the tools of the construction trade he has honed for more than three decades with the relationships he has developed during that time. He is a 26-year veteran with Batson-Cook, having risen through the ranks in assignments that afforded him a broad range of both field and office experience. Before being named president and CEO, he served as senior vice president and general manager of the company's West Point, GA, and Atlanta regional offices.

### VOLUNTEER AFFILIATION

In addition to his role as president and CEO of Batson-Cook, Randy is heavily involved in his community. Randy's current affiliations include:

- National Director, Associated General Contractors of America
- Board of Directors, Associated General Contractors of Georgia, past president
- Board of Directors, Cherokee County Education Foundation
- Executive Board, College of Architecture, Design and Construction; Auburn University
- Board of Directors, Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Downtown Atlanta Rotary Club
- Leadership Atlanta, Class of 2025

### PERSONAL INTERESTS

In his free time, Randy enjoys cycling, golf, focusing on health and fitness, and most importantly, cheering on the Auburn Tigers.

### FAMILY

He and his wife, Janet, reside in Atlanta and have five adult children.



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