

StudentBiographies



Lee Shinaberger (Accounting) - hshinabe@students.kennesaw.edu

Lee Shinaberger (Accounting)

I am excited to join the rest of Cohort 14 as we begin our journey through the PhD program.

I am a Senior Lecturer in management and decision sciences at Coastal Carolina University. I typically teach four sections of business statistics and one section of decision analysis each semester. I am pursuing a PhD to create opportunities for advancement in academia.

(CHEPD) program. We hope to resume those the program when Covid restrictions end.

on my return to KSU as a PhD student in Business Administration.

Nicole Thomas (Marketing) - nthom112@students.kennesaw.edu



Nicole A. Thomas

Marketing & Communications Strategist

Program Discipline: Marketing

Hello. I am Nicole A. Thomas, a Marketing & Communications Strategist and Founder of the Nicallyss Creative Group. My professional background includes marketing, communications, DEI and corporate social responsibility roles with the NBA's Houston Rockets, the Four Seasons, Southwest Airlines and FedEx. I am also an adjunct instructor for the MBA program at Christian Brothers University.

A life-long learner, I earned an MBA from the University of Memphis. Both my Masters in Public Administration and Bachelors in Marketing are from Texas Southern University, in Houston. I also have certifications in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University, as well as Strategic Communications from the University of Texas at Austin. My program discipline is marketing.

Curiosity has led me to travel to more than 12 countries solo, where I love to photograph people, culture and architecture. I have 4 nephews that love to spoil and give back to their parents. Community impact and philanthropy are part of my core values. I have served on several nonprofit boards and led investments of more than \$50 million in nonprofits around the world.

Katie Harris (Accounting) - *kharr337@students.kennesaw.edu*

My name is Katie Harris and I currently work as a lecturer of accounting at Sam Houston State University. Both my undergraduate degree in accounting and master's in finance were

graduating class was a whooping 38, and I am the first person in my family to earn a college education. I believe in the power of an education to change lives because it certainly changed mine. My mother instilled in me a strong work ethic. She encouraged me to pursue my passions and to never let my doubts or insecurities control my willingness to give any pursuit, everything I have. I am incredibly blessed with the knowledge that for the whole of my mother's life, I was loved beyond measure. My husband, Brad, and I have been married for 19 years and we have four beautiful children, Brad II, Gabi, Sam, and Eve. I love to read and I have never read a book that I did not like (except income tax accounting).

Francis Owuor (Information Systems) - fowuor@students.kennesaw.edu



Francis Agot is a Special Agent with the United States Army Criminal Investigations Division.

Francis holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Accounting and Mathematics (B Arts), a Master's in Business Administration (MBA-Finance) and a Masters in Professional Accounting (MPA).

Francis is a Certified Public Account (CPA), Certified Forensic Accountant (Cr. FA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

Francis has an over 10 years experience and interest in Auditing, Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examinations and is Pursuing a PhD in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Accounting.

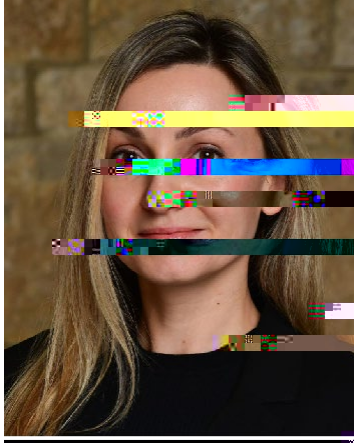
Tuyin plans to join me in traveling to most of the PhD program residencies to keep me company, provide moral support, and get a change of scenery from life in quiet Statesboro.

Deidre Tilley (Marketing) - dtilley8@students.kennesaw.edu

My ultimate academic goal is to be a Dean of a School or College of Business. I currently work at Auburn University as a Student Services Coordinator for the Online MBA program. Previously, I worked at Columbus State University for 13 years in various roles

them, but mostly I just like to create things (probably another reason I like marketing...the creative aspects). I like to travel, and I have been to Costa Rica, Panama, Aruba, Ireland, Cabo, Playa Riveria, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. I was scheduled to go to Uganda on a mission-type trip, but it was canceled due to Covid. Hopefully, I can get to Africa soon.

LesyaStallings (Accounting) - Istalli8@students.kennesaw.edu



My name is Lesya Stallings, I currently live in Boise, Idaho, and I

Mari Sifo (Management) - msifo@students.kennesaw.edu



Hello, Cohort 14 and esteemed PhD faculty! I am Mari Sifo. I am currently the CHRO at SWM International and I take pride in being an HR executive who drives business results through the unique intersection of strategy, talent, and culture. I am a proud graduate of Florida A&M University, where I obtained both my bachelor's and MBA. My area of focus in Management. After 20 years of practical application, I am excited to dive into theory and the recent phenomena in the field, especially topics like burnout and the psychological contract between employer and employee.

I have lived in three continents and been responsible for employees across five continents. This has helped satiate my passion for travel and learning. My husband and I live in Smyrna, GA with our two boys Ian (12) and Ethan (9). Together, my husband (a sickle cell warrior) and I created a scholarship fund for students in Nigeria with Sickle Cell Disease. Our goal is to show young people living with sickle cell a life of opportunity and hope outside their current circumstances. As a family we love travelling, watching movies, and chiding each other about our favorite English Premiership teams. We've been homeschooling and working full time the last two years, so I'm excited

JosephWashburn (Information Systems) - jwashbu2@students.kennesaw.edu

I'm Joseph Washburn and it is my pleasure to meet all of my fellow students, faculty and staff of KSU. I spend my days working for CSI Laboratories in Alpharetta, GA which recently became a Fulgent Genetics company (NASDAQ: FLGT). I am the Senior Director of Clinical Laboratory Operations, which entails oversight of around 120 lab staff across 5 clinical departments conducting medical testing primarily around cancer diagnosis and prognosis.

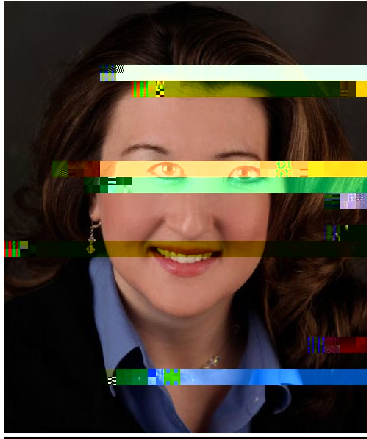
Jenna-Lyn Roman (Management) - jroman10@students.kennesaw.edu



My name is Jenna-Lyn (Jenna) Roman and I'm an organizational psychology consultant and coach. Some of my recent jobs have included leadership roles in the retail sector, training and development intern with New York City Transit, teaching assistant opportunities at two R1 institutions, and two research assistant positions. My recent academic pursuits include an MS degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Baruch College, City University of New York. I also earned a BA in Psychology with a minor in Leadership Studies from the University of South Florida. At KSU, I will be in the Management discipline largely. I was drawn to this concentration because of its strong ties to organizational psychology and the fact that many of the frequently cited, seminal papers in organizational psychology tend to come from scholars who are affiliated with business schools and more specifically, management programs.

I'm originally from Hunterdon County, New Jersey and miss visiting home very much. We are looking forward to our vacation this summer at Biltmore. The last opportunity we had to get away was the summer of 2019. I've been an equestrian for the past 35 years and currently own, Sonny, a 19 year old Quarter Horse that I've had since he was born. I am an ardent fan of Thoroughbred horse racing and the Philadelphia Eagles, which means everyone else in my family is too! Our family is currently looking forward to adopting our next rescue dog. My husband and I met when we were both music management students at William Paterson University in New Jersey quite some time ago.

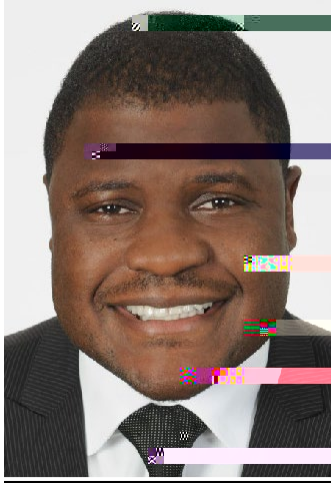
MelissaCunningham-Sereque(Information Systems) - mcunni48@students.kennesaw.edu



Melissa-Anne Cunningham-Sereque, MBA (Mac) is the President/Owner of Motivation & Achievement Concepts, Inc.; a career development company specializing in Resume Writing, Job Search Training, Interview Training, and Cover Letters. The MAC office is in Spartanburg but has clients in over 20 states and 8 countries. She is a fierce defender of equitable pay practices whose legislative advocacy has been featured in media from local and state outlets to ABC National News, and globally in the Associated Press.

Her 2018 TEDx Talk titled, “If you’re my boss, who’s running hell? Why social issues are actually good for business” is available on youtube at: <https://youtu.be/3G9kdSyq-e4>. Mac has an MBA in International Finance and a BS in Exercise Science & Business Administration. Before launching her company, Mac was a Branch Manager for a Fortune 500 International Staffing Firm, and has over 15 years of Specialized Workshop Leadership, Coaching, & Training in tandem with a career in Public Accounting, and Non-Profit Manageme

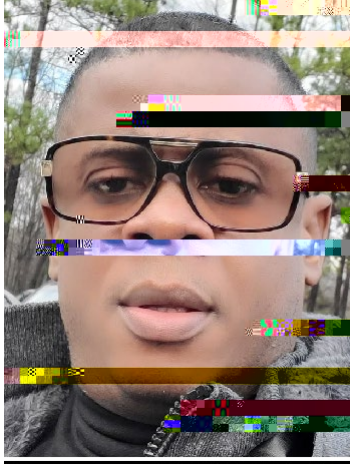
TRAVAREIS Bryant (Accounting) - tbryan85@students.kennesaw.edu



I am an experienced Tax Director with significant professional and senior-level management experience.

I have an

Dierito Matanda Moke (Marketing) - dmatanda@students.kennesaw.edu



My name Dierito MATANDA MOKE. I work at Fox Factory as a cost accountant consultant. I hold an MBA from Georgia Southwestern States University. I am enrolled in Marketing since I am excited to hone my marketing abilities, contribute to a research function, and subsequently generate findings that will aid in conducting business in a developing nation, considering the multiple challenges in such countries. I've held senior roles in international corporations such as DHL Express, British American Tobacco, and Airtel Bharti.

I am married with six children. In my spare time, I like playing soccer, practicing Judo, and playing guitar. While in the program, I will try my best to learn as much as I can and be an excellent advocate for Kennesaw everywhere I go.

