

SPRING 2020

COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI
MAGAZINE



Caleb Mims
*B.S. Information Systems
and Cybersecurity, 2018*



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Dear Readers,

Our alumni are truly some of the most remarkable people I have had the pleasure of knowing. You are war heroes, boardroom powerhouses, Wall Street moguls, and public servants who sacrifice every day for the communities you serve. You inspire all of us at Columbia Southern University and you make it easy and enjoyable to share your stories.

As our world faces this unfortunate, and often scary, climate with the COVID-19 crisis, I have seen many of you bring positivity and hope to your communities. You are on the front lines as business owners, public servants and health care workers. Your CSU family is here for you and we will get through this together.

We have all heard the platitudes: "Be out of this world" and "shoot for the moon," but for CSU alumna Caleb Mims, those phrases ring true. Mims, a captain in the Army National Guard, set his career sights on cybersecurity and now runs the Mission Systems Security Center for the Mission Control Center at NASA and he accomplished this all before his 30th birthday. You can read his story on Page 12.

In this edition of the magazine, we want to start a new tradition that we are calling the Boast Post. This is an opportunity to highlight things that you all are doing, both big and small, that deserve some recognition. Were you recently promoted, recognized in your community for volunteer work, or achieved some other incredible milestone? If you have achieved it, we want to brag about it.

Email CSU-Alumni@ColumbiaSouthern.edu with the subject line "Boast Post" and then head to Page 17 to read more about the exciting things happening in the lives of fellow Knights.

Some may say the curriculum, service and flexibility have made CSU what it is, and that may be true. But, we would be nowhere without our shining alumni. Thank you for being a part of the CSU family.

Happy reading,

Libby Reilly
Editor-in-Chief

LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Hello my fellow Knights,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to reach out to you once more. Boy, how time flies! It seems like only yesterday I, as many of you, was raising a young family, growing in my career and studies, and still finding ways to maintain some reasonable order of sanity.

Where are we today?

I hope that you are enjoying the fruits of your studies from Columbia Southern University and are touting the benefits of both the quality and cost of this education. I, myself, have had many doors opened because of my education and connections made at CSU. In fact, as I write this letter, I am sitting in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, with a client, pursuing work opportunities that would not have been made possible for me if it had not been for my education.

Are you making the most of the knowledge that you gained through your studies?

We cannot allow our efforts to go to waste. The Knight exemplifies chivalry, the concept of **honor, kindness** and **courage**. Embodying the CSU Knight is having the ability to honor our alma mater, the willingness to be kind to others and assist them when we are able, and showing the courage to always press forward, believing that what we were taught at Columbia Southern University is going to allow us to fulfill and, in some cases, surpass our goals.

I encourage every one of you to stand up and be proud of what you have achieved as a Columbia Southern University Knight. I challenge you to raise your sword and beacon skyward in order to lead those who are looking for a better way to achieve their goals.

Be honorable in your goal, be kind with your advice and have the courage to look beyond the obvious.

As always, I remain humbly yours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph J. Blessing".

Ralph J. Blessing, Alumni Association President
M.S. Occupational Safety and Health, Class of 2007

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Engage with us on social media or send us an email at CSU-Alumni@ColumbiaSouthern.edu



Get to Know Your Fellow Knights

WIN CSU Swag



Be on the lookout for the “Get to Know Your Fellow Knights” post in your alumni chapter Facebook feed on the first Monday of each month. How can you participate? In each alumni chapter’s Facebook page, you will find a link to a questionnaire containing fun, easy questions that will give your fellow Knights a little insight into who you are. It is a great way to break the ice and get chapter members a little more acquainted with one another. Plus, you can win CSU swag! If you are already a member of one of our 17

chapters and have yet to fill out the “Get to Know Your Fellow Knights” form, we encourage you to do so.

For those who have not yet joined a chapter, we encourage you to get involved. You never know, your fellow Knights could be your neighbors or colleagues! Alumni chapters are open to all graduates with an associate, bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree from CSU.



To join your local alumni chapter, visit ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Alumni/Alumni-Chapters.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jacob Kit Program

Saves Lives Thanks to Alumnus Daniel Byrne

“My undergraduate degree from CSU set a firm academic foundation and gave me a wider vision of my profession and career.”

Capt. Dan Byrne is a firefighter and paramedic in Beaufort, South Carolina; his wife Angela is a teacher there. After a 2016 shooting in a nearby school, the Byrnes asked a question most do when tragedy strikes: “What can we do?”

Together, they developed a program that would provide life-saving kits to schools, giving classrooms the tools and training needed to help offset injury before first responders can arrive.

It is called the JACOB Kit Program, named after Jacob Hall, a 6-year-old who died after that fatal school shooting in 2016. The program is now in all of Beaufort County buildings and beginning to spread throughout the country.

It is the life-saving, forward-thinking nature of this program, as well as the legacy to Jacob Hall, that Dan Byrne and his department were named the winner of the 2018 Thomas Carr Community Service Award.

Thomas Carr was a fire chief in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Charleston, South Carolina. The award recognizes departments that are positively changing lives in the communities they serve.

Byrne received a bachelor’s in fire science from CSU in 2009.

“When I started my career I just wanted to be a firefighter. I just wanted to serve my community and pull hose forever,” he said. “As I began my studies, I looked at everything differently.

I found better ways to serve, a different way to look at fire and EMS and I began to advance in this profession. I now am able to do so much more for my community and department that I would never have known had I not started my college education.”

The JACOB Kits, which are in accordance with homeland security’s National Preparedness Goal, are currently funded solely through donations and grants.

Byrne says his education helped shape some of his community involvement and how he interacts with other government officials for the greater good of the community.

“My undergraduate degree from CSU set a firm academic foundation and gave me a wider vision of my profession and career,” he said. “One of the greatest things I learned that has been a tremendous benefit to me is how local governments work and how the fire service fits into the bigger picture. This has enabled me to work closer and more efficiently with my community and community leaders.” 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of North American Rescue

To learn more about the JACOB Kit Program, visit [facebook.com/SCJACOBkit/](https://www.facebook.com/SCJACOBkit/)

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



From Study Buddies to Forever Friends

Drs. Chenita Clay and Rosalind Fields
Gained More Than New Titles While
Earning Their DBAs

When Drs. Chenita Clay and Rosalind Fields first met during a Doctor of Business Administration residency meeting in 2017, they never imagined the friendship that would form over the following years. By supporting each other throughout the program, both women were able to earn their DBAs.

Fields was seeking input on assignments. Clay was looking for motivation. What they both found was an inspiring partnership, a plan for weekends away to study, and a friend for life.

“We talked a little bit at the DBA residency, exchanged phone numbers and we talked about the idea of meeting up; the first meeting was in Orlando,” said Clay. “We really enjoyed being in an environment where we were on the same page; we understood one another.”

Fields lives in Atlanta and works for Delta Air Lines. Clay lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and works for Allstate Benefits.

“We stayed at a beautiful resort in Orlando but we worked all day and night. We took a total of one hour off to go buy new book bags before going back to start studying again,” remembers Fields.

The two soon decided that their weekend of studying and support would need to be repeated. They decided to plan their second weekend, and all subsequent trips after that, in Tybee Island, a small beach outside of Savannah, Georgia.

The two friends met there upwards of 12 times before their DBA programs were complete.

“We had a routine,” said Fields. “I would bring the snacks; she would bring the waters. We would make breakfast before we started writing and stay up until two or three in the morning.”

“We had the same mindset but we both enjoyed it,” said Clay. “A lot of times when we would go, we would walk on the beach only about 10 minutes and that was it out of a four-day trip but it was so worth it. We bounced ideas off of each other, helped each other through the dissertation process.”

The friends said they were able to support and help one another, and were thoughtful to the sacrifices they each were making in order to complete their doctoral program.

“We were really serious about this thing. It was never a vacation for us by any stretch of the imagination; we never advertised it that way,” said Clay. “It was hard work. We held each other accountable.”

At the close of each weekend, they communicated to each other the goals they had for what they would accomplish in the following eight weeks before meeting again. It was this sort of accountability on which they each thrived.

“We had tasks set out that we were going to complete before we met again and we had almost daily checkpoints,” said Clay. “When you have another person investing time in you, it’s not fair not to do it. You commit to doing it.”

“During that time, Chenita had a crisis in her family, I lost my dad and my mom went through chemo, but we just kept showing up and we kept motivating each other to finish,” said Fields.

After they each defended their dissertations last summer, there were plans for one final trip to the beach: this time, to Orange Beach, Alabama, to participate in commencement.

Being at commencement made everything come full circle; it was the most awesome thing,” said Clay. “If one of us had not made it, we would have waited for each other. We were going to walk together.”

“She will forever be my friend. I included her in the acknowledgements of my dissertation,” said Fields. “You meet people for a reason and sometimes for a season, but I think the season is still there. We needed each other and we were both willing to work—we were likeminded in that.”

Two women were brought together by their drive to complete their DBA program but who refused to go it alone, provided each other support and encouragement along the shores of the Georgia Coast every eight weeks when they showed up for their “dissertation boot camp” weekends and each other. They each are now proud to be called “doctor,” but are more touched by the friendship that was forged in the process. ■



Drs. Chenita Clay and Rosalind Fields documented their “dissertation boot camp” weekends in hopes of motivating their fellow classmates on social media.



The Seven Traits You Need to be a Good Manager

It's been said that people don't leave jobs, they leave managers. And judging by the number of times people change jobs over the course of their careers, it appears that a good manager is a rare gift.

What makes a good manager? Many share these seven key personality traits.

1. Diplomatic

Everyone wants their leaders to be honest; however, the way in which that honesty is delivered can make the difference between a positive and negative encounter. A good manager handles every situation with diplomacy and tact, demonstrating empathy, emotional intelligence and politeness even when delivering difficult news. Diplomatic managers also support healthy, collaborative relationships within the workplace.

This means supporting compromise, actively listening to all sides of the story, never playing favorites and maintaining an open mind, even when you're inclined to disagree. Being diplomatic doesn't mean sacrificing honesty in the name of keeping the peace, but rather seeking common ground and building connections through polite and tactful communication.

2. Compassionate

When people are asked to describe a poor manager, one trait that often comes up is a lack of compassion. Poor managers create the impression that they don't actually care about the people working for them, that they just want the work done. They are selfish, focused on their own needs and how everything affects them, not how their decisions and actions affect everyone else.

Good leaders, on the other hand, actively demonstrate caring for their people by listening, focusing on the “we” instead of the “I,” and empower and encourage people to seek excellence and grow. They give credit where credit is due, are empathetic toward the needs of their employees, and specifically focus on maintaining morale. In short, they recognize that their subordinates are people, not robots, and they treat them as such.

3. Motivated

One of the key responsibilities for a manager is motivating employees, but if they lack motivation themselves, it’s going to be all but impossible to spur others to care as well. Great managers are intrinsically motivated to achieve great things, and they seek to embody the mission and vision of the company.

Motivated managers lead by example, keeping a positive attitude even in the face of challenges. They take pride in their own work and encourage their employees to do the same. They don’t rest on their laurels, using their position to avoid actually working in the name of “supervision.” When necessary, they will roll up their sleeves and work alongside their team.

4. Trustworthy

Good managers focus on building a culture of mutual trust. They empower people by trusting them to know how to do their jobs and do them well, while also acting in such a manner that others trust them. They demonstrate integrity in everything they do, with their actions matching their words.

Trustworthiness in management can inspire innovation. According to the Harvard Business Review, when there is mutual trust between managers and employees, people are more comfortable taking risks and trying out new ideas because they are confident that their manager has their back. Instead of sticking to the status quo, good managers cultivate innovation by developing collaborative, creative relationships built on a foundation of trust.

5. Organized

Managers are constantly juggling multiple priorities, projects and people. The ability to keep all of these plates spinning at once is an essential skill for any manager. You can’t afford to waste time looking for information, missing deadlines, or falling behind on tasks because you’re disorganized.

Just as important, though, is that disorganized managers fail to inspire confidence among their people. It’s difficult to be motivated by someone who consistently drops the ball on

important projects or who doesn’t have clearly identified goals and a cohesive strategic plan for meeting them. No one wants to work in a department that feels scattered and disorganized and frantic. With an organized manager, work tends to flow more smoothly, and problems are solved more quickly.

6. Solution-Oriented

When there are problems in your organization, how do managers respond? Effective managers don’t waste time playing the blame game and attempting to shift responsibility. Instead, effective managers focus on finding solutions, correcting problems and creating protocols to avoid future problems.

This doesn’t mean micromanaging people, either. Good managers empower their people to solve problems using creativity and innovation, while also listening to them and helping eliminate roadblocks that keep them from achieving results. For example, an effective leader regularly checks in with people to ensure they have the tools and support they need to do their jobs. When gaps are identified, they work to close them, demonstrating compassion while solving the problem.

7. Articulate

Communication skills are one of the most sought after traits in managers, and with good reason. In a survey by Robert Half International, 30% of the respondents said that their leaders could improve in the areas of communication and diplomacy. Although honest feedback, making yourself available and keeping people in the loop are at the top the list of effective communication skills in managers, it’s also vital for managers to be articulate. We’ve all encountered people who struggle to express themselves, leading to confusion, frustration and misunderstanding. A leader that can clearly identify, express and share their thoughts and ideas is one that can effectively lead a team to success.

Good managers don’t fumble with their words, use vague terms and buzzwords that circle around information, or require people to ask exactly the right questions to find out what they know. Articulate managers are capable of providing information that’s direct and to the point and isn’t open to interpretation. They can be assertive and share bad news, but diplomatically, and they remain calm and clear in all situations. ■

COVER
STORY

CSU Alumnus Caleb Mims Shoots for the Moon with Cybersecurity Career

Many have heard that if you shoot for the moon, you will land among the stars. Columbia Southern University graduate Capt. Caleb Mims landed at NASA instead.



Caleb Mims

*B.S. Information Systems
and Cybersecurity, 2018*



The Army National Guard signal officer earned his bachelor's degree in information systems and cybersecurity in 2018, the same year he began working at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Not long after being hired as an entry-level analyst, Mims was promoted to technical lead of the Mission Systems Security Center, a team of 20, for the Mission Control Center.

He accomplished all of this before his 30th birthday.

"NASA was one of those places that always seemed really cool to work for but I never really thought it'd be a possibility," he said. "The combination of having military experience in certain areas and then having the degree from CSU really helped me wind up here."

The Mission Systems Security Center provides support for flight operations and the International Space Station, working in the Mission Control Center. Mims' team works in a highly secured area, but they can always keep their sights on what is important.

"We work in a segregated facility because what we do can be so sensitive; we are talking to the flight director and ground controller throughout the day in order to maintain an accurate operational picture," he said. "We have a TV in our room that we always keep on a livestream from the International Space Station to remind us of what we're protecting and what the mission is. It's a reminder that there are people up in space who are counting on you to do a good job."

The most surprising thing about working for NASA? Seeing just how many people are involved to make each mission possible.

"It takes so many people to actually get to space, and people are involved at all different levels. It is quite amazing what they are able to accomplish. It's not just the scientists and astronauts on board."

Mims says he enjoys exercising his creative muscles in this job, as there is always an interesting problem to solve.

"Cybersecurity is a lot of critical thinking and figuring out how to solve unique problems with whatever resources you have available," he said. "There is often a unique or even weird solution to the problem; you just have to think outside of the box, just like how you would think a detective might work. You must look at all the data and figure out how the pieces fit together, building a story or where the bad guy came from, what his objectives were, and the tools he was trying to use."

In addition to NASA, Mims also works in cybersecurity and communications for the National Guard, which he has been a part of for 10 years.

"The two roles benefit from one another; the training I get in one role helps in the other," he said. "One of the cool things about cybersecurity is that it's a very dynamic and changing thing, especially because people are involved. It's more difficult but also more fun because you always have something new and weird to freak out about. It is a scary, interconnected world. You always have to be reading up on the latest trends and trying to stay on par to stay ahead of the bad guys."

Staying ahead of the bad guys is exactly what his team at NASA does.

"We're a 24/7 operation, constantly protecting the network. We have people who work around the clock 365 days a year because the bad guys don't stop on Christmas."

Mims' advice for anyone looking to begin a career in cybersecurity is to think outside of the box.

"You have to be studying on your own and doing projects on your own, building virtual environments and breaking them, figuring out how everything works," he said. "Try to think outside of the box on how somebody would get into your personal computer in order to figure out how to prevent it."

Christopher C. Krause Mission Control Center

“My degree enabled me to get my dream job at NASA. If you put in the work, it is absolutely worth it.”



Photo courtesy of NASA.

“My degree enabled me to get my dream job at NASA,” he said. “If you put in the work, it is absolutely worth it. You can try to skate by with the bare minimum; however, if you truly take advantage of instructors and course materials, you can become a sharpened sword in the cybersecurity fight.”

While landing such a stellar job early in his career came as a surprise, Mims says he feels grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the important work that NASA is doing.

“The vice president laid out the plans for NASA to try to go back to the moon by 2024 and go to Mars after that. My team is involved in that process, so it’s a cool time to be a part of the history NASA is making,” he said.

As far as going to space himself, Mims says he’ll leave that up to the professionals.

“They go up for six months at a time and train for two-to-three years before that; I don’t know if I could handle that much time in such a tiny amount of space.” 🚀

“It is a scary, interconnected world. You always have to be reading up on the latest trends and trying to stay on par to stay ahead of the bad guys.”



EVENTS & CHAPTER HAPPENINGS



Alumni Events in Review

October 2019 | Orange Beach, AL

The 2019 CSU Open House hosted the largest group of graduates and guests ever. We offered a fun, family-friendly event on campus complete with alligators, face-painting and caricature artists. Graduates and their families enjoyed slides and a game area, an escape room and demonstrations by local emergency responders, including a helicopter landing. We can't wait to celebrate again this year with our 2020 graduates!



Visit ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Alumni/Events for information about upcoming events and CSU social networking opportunities.



Our 2019 graduates and their guests gathered last October to celebrate together.

To find a regional alumni chapter near you, visit ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Alumni/Alumni-Chapters.



OLIVIA JACKSON

Alumni Relations Coordinator

Hi, everyone! My name is Olivia Jackson and I am your new alumni relations coordinator. I am here to support you in any way, from answering questions about returning to school to helping you organize a networking event for your local Knights. I love interacting with CSU alumni and am excited to serve this unique community and see it grow.

I have worked for CSU since 2016. I went to Augusta State College for my undergraduate degree and Auburn University for graduate school (War Eagle!), where I earned a master's degree in higher education administration. I love meeting new people and facilitating networking opportunities among likeminded peers. Before I accepted the role as alumni relations coordinator, I worked as a corporate outreach representative, serving primarily those in occupational safety and health programs. In my previous role, I traveled all over the United States to meet our incredible students and alumni in their hometowns and at various events and conferences. Through that experience, I learned how truly special the Knight spirit is.

If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to reach out. We can achieve anything together.

Olivia.Jackson@ColumbiaSouthern.edu

BOAST POST

At CSU, we love hearing about the wonderful things you are accomplishing and we really love to brag on you! Maybe you received a promotion or an award. Perhaps you took an online course and learned something new. Maybe you made a difference in your community or earned another degree. Whatever it is, we want to give you an opportunity to shine.



If you have accomplished something “boast worthy” recently, will you share it with us? Email CSU-Alumni@ColumbiaSouthern.edu with the subject line “Boast Post” for an opportunity to be featured in the next edition of the CSU Alumni Magazine.

Msgt. Reuben J. Zamaro | MBA Human Resources, M.S. Organizational Leadership

Msgt. Zamaro was selected as Air Force Sergeants Association Magazine's 2017 Non-Commissioned Officer of the year. He has served in the Air Force for 17 years.

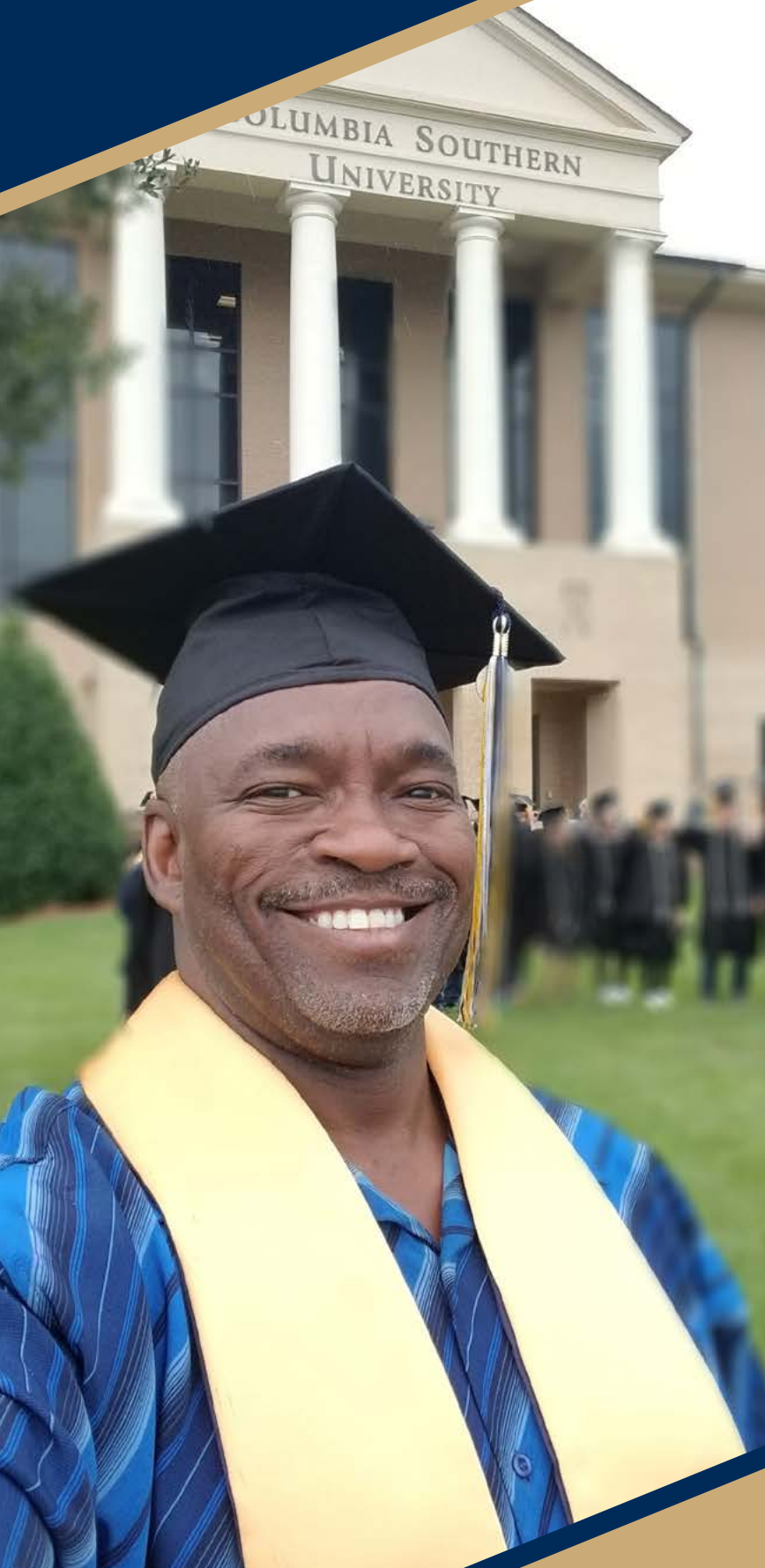
Felicia Rucker-Sumerlin | B.S. Criminal Justice

Rucker-Sumerlin was named deputy chief by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Birmingham, Alabama, in January. She is the first woman to hold this position in the agency's 200 years. She joined the department in 1990 and most recently became the first black female captain, for which she received an honor from the NAACP.

Chukwuemeka Onwuka | M.S. Occupational Safety and Health

Chukwuemeka Onwuka, an occupational health and safety specialist at Procter & Gamble Nigeria, was recently published in the African Journal of Health, Safety and Environment. His article, “A Quantitative Test of the Predictive Validity of Heinrich's Accident Pyramid” can be found in the journal's January 2020 edition.

MILITARY SPOTLIGHT



Army Veteran Timothy Robinson Earns Third Degree at 55

Timothy Robinson knew that entering the civilian workforce after decades of military service would be an interesting transition, one of which he wanted to be sure he was prepared.

“At 55 years old and after a lifetime in the military, I realized I needed an advanced education to compete in today’s global economy.”

Robinson’s decision to join the military came after watching many of his family members serve in the Army.

“Like many people, I was unsure of what would be the best avenue for my life, but I knew I needed a vehicle to propel me forward,” he said. “I have worked at most Army command levels and my most memorable deployment was to Japan, to support Emergency Crisis Training with the Japanese Army.”

During his time with the military, Robinson served as a combat medic, infantry drill sergeant, observer controller trainer and recruiter. His strong drive for excellence in both service and education began as a child growing up in Buffalo, New York, in a childhood he calls “disadvantaged and dysfunctional.”

“My mother, though she loved me, couldn’t provide the care I needed so she sent me to live with my great aunt



“Earning your degree will be a decision that you will never regret. If you were to lose everything you have in life, your knowledge can never be taken away from you.”

and uncle, who adopted me. When my great aunt died, I was again thrust back into the hardships of the inner-city with my elderly, Christian grandmother,” he said. “My grandmother was a strict disciplinarian and insisted on making education a priority. It was poverty, her influence, my self-ambition, and God’s direction that propelled me to pursue education as a means to escape living beneath my ability.”

In 2016, as he was approaching retirement, Robinson earned a certificate in project management from Columbia Southern University. He then earned a master’s degree from Waldorf University earned his MBA in project management from CSU in 2018.

Today, Robinson looks for ways to give back and positively touch the inner-city children of Detroit, who remind him so

much of the young boy he once was. He teaches elementary and middle school, as well as serves in the church.

“I wanted to give back to the youth who so desperately need help,” he said. “Earning your degree will be a decision that you will never regret. If you were to lose everything you have in life, your knowledge can never be taken away from you.” 🇺🇸

“At 55 years old and after a lifetime in the military, I realized I needed an advanced education to compete in today’s global economy.”

CAREER SERVICES



How to Prepare for a Job Interview

Interviews can be a double-edged sword for job seekers. They are necessary for getting the job you want, but they can also be a big source of stress.

1. Contact Your References

Professional references can make a big difference to your overall job application and letting them know ahead of time that you listed them is crucial. Your references will be ready to sing your praises to your potential employer and may also be able to provide you helpful information as you prepare.

2. Conduct a Self-Assessment

A self-assessment could be reflecting on your career or thinking about what you've accomplished so far and what you want to accomplish in the future. What are your preferences for workplace culture? What kinds of personalities

complement your own? You will want to reflect on these topics as they will likely come up in an interview.

Conducting a self-assessment is also a good time to search for yourself online. According to a CareerBuilder survey, 70% of employers use social media to research job candidates and 66% use search engines. Familiarize yourself with what employers see when they search for you so you're prepared to answer any questions about their findings.

3. Research the Position and Employer

Before an interview, study the job description line-by-line. The interviewer may not directly ask how your previous work lines up with the requirements of the position, but making that connection yourself shows that you pay attention to details.

If you are unfamiliar with the employer, there are plenty of ways to find more information. Ask your closest colleagues if they know anything about the organization, good or bad. You may uncover some information through your personal connections that isn't available online.

4. Prepare for the Interview Setting

No two interviews are exactly alike, and many of those differences come from the format and location. Some popular interview settings include group, mealtime, one-on-one, panel, phone and video.

Considerations for In-Person Interviews

- » Visualize the setting. Thinking about your surroundings ahead of time may ease some of your stress leading up to the day.
- » Prepare your materials. In addition to bringing several copies of your resume, you may want to print out the job description and highlight sections, adding your own notes. Doing this will help you prepare your answers, and you may also impress the interviewer if they notice your attention to detail.
- » Practice the route to the interview location. Aim to arrive 15-30 minutes early in case you run into unexpected traffic or other snafus.

Considerations for Remote Interviews

- » Thoroughly prepare your materials. Print out anything you think may be helpful, or bring it up on a computer screen. Use caution though; you will want to refer to the materials naturally and not delay your answers too much while you search for the right document.
- » Test your technology. If the interview is over the phone, confirm you will be somewhere with strong reception or access to a landline. Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged or plugged in to a reliable charger. For interviews conducted over the internet, test your audio and video equipment, and familiarize yourself with the software.

5. Practice Answers to Common Interview Questions

Practicing your answers to common interview questions may be the most critical step. Find examples of interview questions online and maybe grab a friend to help you practice. The CSU Career Services department is a great resource for mock interviews as well.

6. Prepare Questions for the Interviewer

Most interviewers will save at least a few minutes at the end so that candidates can ask their own questions. Asking questions at the end of an interview shows that you are curious about the position and that you have researched the organization. Only preparing your answers to potential questions and not questions you want to ask your interviewee may seem like you are not prepared or, even worse, not interested in the position.



Here are a few ideas:

- » Can you describe a typical day for someone in this position?
- » What training does the person in this position receive?
- » What are the most common challenges faced by the person in this position?
- » How would you describe the work culture here?
- » What do you enjoy most about working here?
- » What are the next steps in the interview process and when might I hear from you?

Career Services is Here to Help You

The department of Career Services is available to assist all CSU alumni. Services include resume review, interview preparation, job search strategies and more. Connect with a career development counselor or discover additional career resources at ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Career-Services.

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



CSU graduate Stephen Chee, far left, stands with students from one of his martial arts classes in Singapore. Chee holds black belts and high rankings in various martial arts including judo, karate, Aiki-Jutsu and jujitsu.

A Flippin' Success

Judo coach works to exert positive influence on students, others

A martial arts coach must be dedicated, humble, exude confidence and possess the ability to motivate others.

So says coach Stephen Chee, a 2008 CSU Singaporean graduate, who has been mastering various martial arts since 1972 when he first learned judo. The certified international police senior instructor-trainer for various law enforcement agencies is a leading figure in Singapore judo as the coach at Nanyang Polytechnic Judo Club, United World College, Bayrich Judo Club and member of the secretariat of the Singapore Judo Federation, which is the national controlling body for the sport of judo in his country.

At age 66, he loves what he does and works hard to be the consummate coach.

"Success by a student attempting a given technique is, in itself, a motivator," says Chee. "This is a positive attitude reflected by the coaching, which in turn, can stimulate further motivation by the student. I am in a place where I can truly dedicate my time, so I am trying to find the best way."

Chee holds black belts and high rankings in various martial arts including judo, karate, Aiki-Jutsu and jujitsu. He has learned Arnis, the Filipino art of stick fighting, and is a Krav Maga instructor.

For the past few years, Chee has instructed many students who have represented Singapore at the South East Asia (SEA) Games. In June 2015, Chee's judo team won two silver and four bronze medals for Singapore at the SEA Games.

"It exerts a positive influence on strengthening the body and making it more physically efficient," says Chee of his martial arts philosophy. "It instills discipline and tolerance and is an excellent program to assist students to keep fit and healthy."

Chee, who holds a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice from CSU, worked for the Singapore Police Force for 31 years before retiring as superintendent.

He serves on the board of International Bodyguard and Security Services Association, which is the official international association of private security, manpower and technical resources, technological companies and members of the security profession.

Eager to help others in any way he can, Chee would like to focus on law enforcement training and forensic psychology to treat mentally ill offenders, consult with attorneys and offer expert psychological opinions in courts. He is also interested in working with children and families with complex emotional and psychological needs. ■



ABOVE: Chee and his students perform a Judo demonstration. RIGHT: Chee and Dr. Joe Manjone, CSU assistant provost of special programs.



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