

## ***SLA Creates Board of Visitors (BOV): “Big Deal for SLA”***

On January 26, 2023, Georgia Gwinnett College’s School of Liberal Arts hosted the inaugural meeting of its Board of Visitors (BOV). With the installation of its BOV, GGC’s School of Liberal Arts has joined other schools within the College in creating a school specific Board of Visitors.

According to a statement of understanding, the SLA’s Board of Visitors is intended to be “a philanthropic advisory board, which supports the school by providing financial resources, advocacy and subject matter expertise.”

According to the same understanding, “BOV members advise the Dean, generate annual and/or major gifts, and share their expertise with the students and faculty, one on one and in group settings.”

“This is a big deal,” said SLA Dean Teresa Winterhalter. “As we develop all our majors, the expertise and community involvement of our new BOV members will help us understand the needs of Gwinnett County organizations and business, as well as create a web of connections among resources and agencies throughout our area that will support our efforts to grow.”

Winterhalter pointed to the array of experiences the BOV’s members bring to the institution as one of their greatest strengths. “Because they are all so well connected in Gwinnett, we also hope they will help us stretch the reach of our membership and invite future members while touching upon all the academic and artistic areas the SLA encompasses.”

The off-campus BOV members include the BOV Chair Dr. Jeff Smith, who is no stranger to GGC. He teaches Criminal Justice and Criminology at GGC as an adjunct, and is now Chief Investigator for the Solicitor General’s Office at Gwinnett County.

Another BOV member is Margaret Washburn, P.C., who was a founding partner of Washburn Law Offices. She currently serves as Chief Judge for the City of Sugar Hill and Associate Judge in the City of Duluth Municipal Court and Municipal Court of the City of Berkeley Lake.

A third BOV member is Alex Raul Rivera, Chief of Staff of Rudhil Companies. He has over three decades of leadership experience in corporate America. Rivera works directly with philanthropic organizations such as American Red Cross and the March of Dimes. He is also a member of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The fourth BOV member is Claire Dees, the Executive Director of Spectrum Autism Support Group, Inc. She brings a background in education and in non-profit management. Spectrum has an active volunteer leadership board whose members support the overall operation of the group.

Two ex-officio members round out the BOV: SLA Dean Teresa Winterhalter and Chrissy Rosen, Executive Director of GGC’s Office of Advancement. *By Richard Rawls*

### **BOV Members**

From top: Dr. Jeff Smith, Margaret Washburn, Alex Raul Rivera, and Claire Dees

