



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

JAMES DALLAS

Technology should not replace human connection, he said.

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**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT**

**ED STEINI-
KE**

For his mentorship and leadership, Steini-ke is being honored posthumously.

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**SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**

TECH'S FUTURE

Students from four universities were awarded funds.

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ATLANTA BUSINESS CHRONICLE

SPECIAL SECTION

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November 1-7, 2019



CIO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The 21st annual Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Corporate and Nonprofit categories will be announced Nov. 8 at the Cobb Galleria.



GEORGIACIO
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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

2019 CIO OF THE YEAR:
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

When the first CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards were presented in 1998, something magical happened. Executives responsible for leading technology were recognized for something going right! CIOs were inspired to raise the bar and sharpen their leadership acumen.

Too often, CIOs and technology leaders are only noticed when something doesn't work. There's little appreciation and understanding of the technical complexity and sophistication required to deliver secure, available and scalable systems to support digital business.

The role of the CIO can be overwhelming. Transforming legacy processes to digital, securing the enterprise from end to end, and delivering customer experiences to compete and win in the digital economy require courageous leadership.

The Georgia CIO Leadership Association is a peer-based approach to helping CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share success. By convening Georgia's leading CIOs in environments and experiences where members own the program agenda, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges.

In any gathering of 20 CIOs, the answer is in the room. A project one CIO is about to undertake has recently been completed by a peer across the room.



SPECIAL

What was their experience? What did they learn? What would they do differently? How might other CIOs benefit from sharing their experiences?

Peer-based leadership groups have incredible ROI when leaders share a common problem set. The vertical/industry and size/scale may be different, but similar approaches to effective leadership and prob-

lem solving are transferrable. There is little correlation between financial resources and quality of ideas. If this were true, financial institutions would own innovation. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation, and everyone wins when leaders engage and share ideas, experiences and best practices.

For over 20 years, GeorgiaCIO members have been inspired by the success of their peers through the annual CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards – but this is just the tip of the iceberg. By joining GeorgiaCIO, technology executives take their leadership to the next level through year-round, member-led, non-commercial programs. The power of CIOs working together – across public and private business, government, education, health care and nonprofit organizations – creates enormous value for everyone.

Together, we are transforming our organizations with technology and enriching the state of Georgia and our world. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, I congratulate all nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and share our gratitude for the sponsors, underwriters and staff who have made the ORBIE Awards possible.

Sincerely,

John Trainor
John Trainor
2019 Chair, GeorgiaCIO
CIO, Aaron's Inc.

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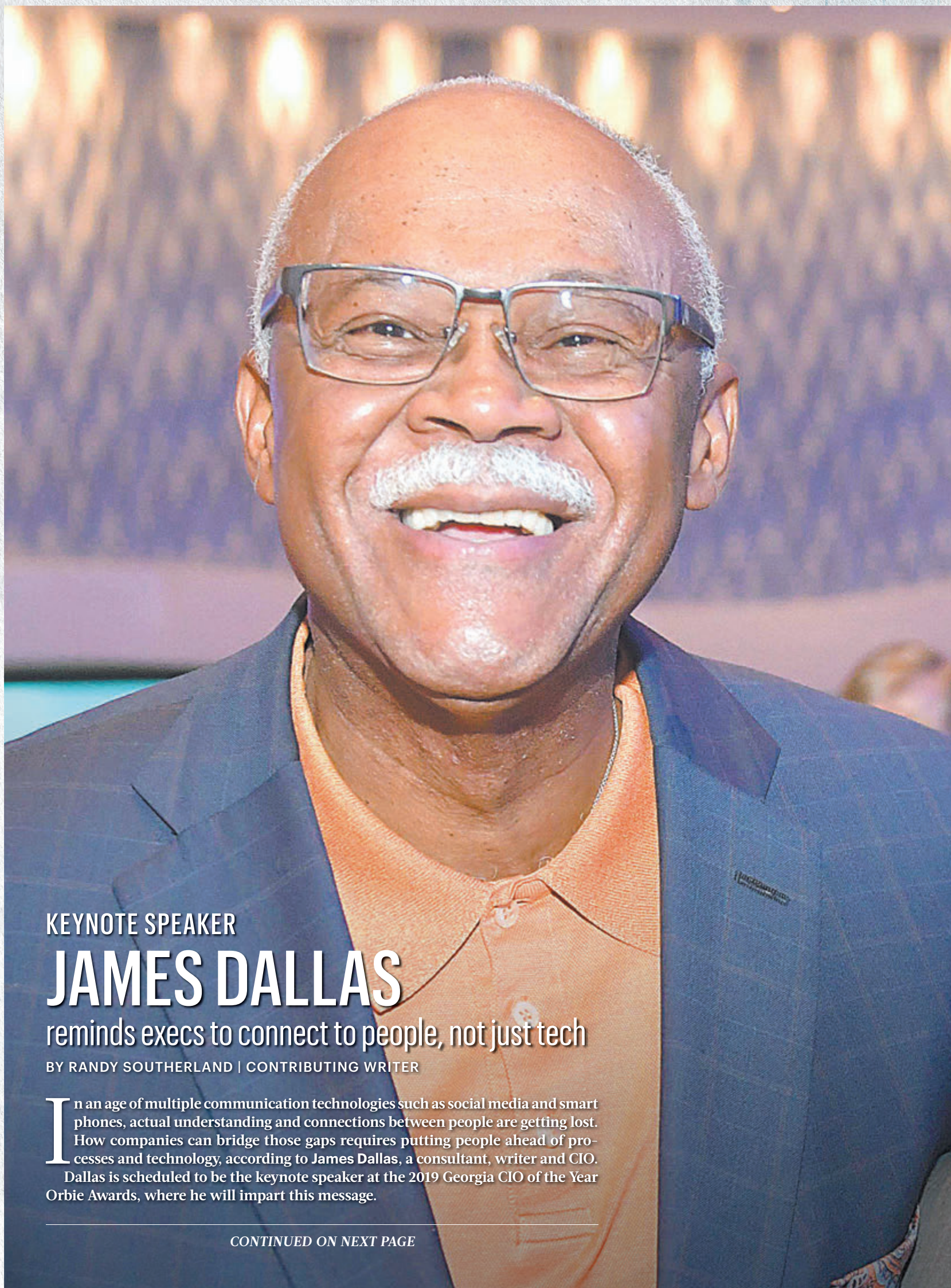
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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JAMES DALLAS

reminds execs to connect to people, not just tech

BY RANDY SOUTHERLAND | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In an age of multiple communication technologies such as social media and smart phones, actual understanding and connections between people are getting lost. How companies can bridge those gaps requires putting people ahead of processes and technology, according to James Dallas, a consultant, writer and CIO. Dallas is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the 2019 Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Awards, where he will impart this message.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BYRON E. SMALL

2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

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He has spent more than 30 years in business operations and CIO positions as the senior vice president of quality, operations and IT at **Medtronic Inc.**, and vice president and CIO at **Georgia-Pacific Corporation**. Now president of **James Dallas & Associates**, he consults and speaks on managing change and executive leadership development in a digital world.

To achieve business success, companies must “connect people, processes and devices,” said Dallas. Too often, the primary focus is on the deployment of the device or software without a full understanding of the people who will be using them.

“The more connected we become, the more separated we are becoming,” he said. “The job of a leader is to really connect to people. When you do that, [processes and devices] will fall just like dominoes.”

Dallas’ passion for true human connectivity arose from his experiences as CIO for large Fortune 500 organizations.

“A lot of my technologies were failing,” he explained. “I connected to devices, but the people were not connected. So as a result, we didn’t have any success.”

He added that he was finding that a project might be a “home run” in one business unit but “an absolute fail” in another. “That’s when I started putting my focus on people,” he recalled.

The first step to understanding what brings people together is to discover what each group within an organization values the most, then come up with what the groups value jointly, said Dallas, who uses this process in his consulting. “People go into situations and they have different definitions of what success looks like,” he added. “Until you can come up with a common definition of success and a common way of measuring it, you have no connection.”

Along with understanding group values, there must also be personal connections between individuals, and not just online, he said.

“Just because you and I are connected on Facebook or LinkedIn doesn’t mean that we have a personal connection,” said Dallas. “The way I create that is, I have people start telling their stories. I get to know about you as a person [which] is more than just seeing your pictures on Facebook. Once I learn your story, then I can do business with you.”

Dallas has shared this philosophy and practice as a senior advisor to **World 50**, a private community where senior executives with global organizations can collaborate.

“He understands people and, in the end, all of this is about people,” said **Joan Rohs**, managing director of Enterprise 50, a community within World 50. “He understands how to get to the root of what people want and figure out how to make situations a win-win.”

One reason Dallas is expert at this is because he

recognizes that people are bombarded with information, data and distractions. To counteract that impact and keep the focus of an audience, Dallas partakes in what he called “Twitter communication.” With a 280-character limit, tweets are short and concise and easily digestible by recipients.

But social media has also conditioned people to shut down if they see or hear something online they disagree with or find offensive. The result, said Dallas: a wide circle of “friends” who all think the same way.

“Just because we can connect people easily through social media, that does not mean that we’re forming personal connections,” said Dallas. “The more connected we are making people, the more homogeneous people’s personal connections are becoming. You have to be much more conscious in how to form connections across groups.”

That philosophy is why Rohs said she sees Dallas as a business person first, rather than a technologist. “He’s an executive who happened to have come up through technology and then has spent some time outside of technology as well,” she explained. “He really is kind of the quintessential executive that you would want leading a technology organization. And now that he’s stepped into an advisory-type role, he is phenomenal at providing feedback and being a sounding board for other executives that are in similar positions.”

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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

ED STEINIKE
POSTHUMOUSLY
HONORED

BY RANDY SOUTHERLAND | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During two stints at The Coca-Cola Company, Ed Steinike transformed the company's technological platforms. He put the company on the road to adopting digital technologies, including software as a service and cloud migration, that were considered cutting-edge at the time but are now recognized as standard corporate practice. He also guided the careers of many technologists who went on to become CIOs themselves.

For these contributions and more, Steinike, who died in 2016, is being honored posthumously with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Awards. Former CIO of the Year winners made the selection for this year's honor.

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PHOTOS/SPECIAL

2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

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Steinike was named CIO at Coca-Cola in 2010 after serving as executive vice president and CIO at ING. He had been chief technology officer at Coke in 2002, and served as the company's chief development officer and CIO of the North America business from 2004 to 2007.

"He was the most effective CIO as an executive that I have ever seen," said **Rob Cain**, a partner with **McKinsey & Company** who worked with Steinike at Coke. "He brought gravitas and a credibility to that role."

Steinike also possessed self-confidence when it came to fostering the careers of those who worked for him, agreed those who knew him. One of his goals was to be remembered as "helping the most people become CIO," said **Sallie Graves**, executive vice president and CIO with **MagMutual**.

Graves and Steinike became acquainted during their tenures at ING. "He was a great mentor," Graves said.

He worked with organizations like **TechBridge** and **Women in Technology** (WIT) to bring more women into the field, said Graves, adding that he encouraged her to expand her skill set.

"He said, 'You need to be a CIO at some point and you need to have that end-to-end responsibility,'" said Graves about Steinike.

She took his advice and eventually became one of a long list of CIOs who had been mentored by Steinike.

He understood technology and its potential, but was also able to easily relate software and IT spending to the company's bottom line, said executives.

"Ed was on this transformation journey [with] Coca-Cola, which had become this very stodgy old company," said **Alan Boehme**, global CTO and chief IT and innovation officer with **Proctor & Gamble**. "He was trying to digitize [the company] before digitization was really popular, so it was a giant transformation. He was trying to get the costs in line. He was trying to get the systems to work."

Boehme remembered that Steinike knew innovation and could drive the company's success.

One of the projects he worked on was The Bridge, a seven-month commercialization program for startups that connected the entrepreneurial community with major global markets. The first program was launched in Israel and later, another version was created in the United States.

Steinike also challenged people, especially when he saw they had potential, according to **Aaron Gwiner**, CIO at **Reynolds American Inc.**

"He was a really good people leader," said Gwiner. "There was rarely somebody in the organization that didn't know him, hadn't met him, didn't like him. Because of that, he drove this extremely collaborative culture where people felt empowered to do what they needed to do, always felt that he was there to support them and not just somebody up in that ivory tower sitting on the top executive floor."

Steinike also could also be tough, his former colleagues agreed. Several executives recall a meeting in which one manager kept arguing against a reor-

ganization that would shift responsibilities to other staff. After a while, the executives recalled, Steinike told the manager he would be doing less for the same salary. "I've given you a raise," they recalled Steinike said, and then added that he could renegotiate the manager's pay if the manager wanted.

Steinike also was known as a technologist who could explain complex issues to non-techies, including high-ranking executives. He made the business case for IT investments and how they would impact the bottom line.

His success was in part driven by his charismatic personality, according to **Miriam McLemore**, enterprise strategist with **Amazon Web Services** who worked with him at Coke as the company was beginning its migration of data to the cloud - before it became standard practice.

"He had a big personality, was very good on stage, very warm, bright and approachable," said McLemore. "And to me, also really logical and practical."

His colleagues also remembered his courage in the last years of his life.

Boehme recalled Steinike's phone call confiding that he was ill and it might be terminal. "I was on the journey with him," said Boehme. "To the end, he kept saying, 'I'm going to beat this. I'm going to find out what it is and we're going to beat this thing.' He didn't want anyone to feel sorry for him."

Steinike's legacy lives on in the team he assembled at Coke and other corporations, his former colleagues said, and the many staff who have risen through the ranks thanks to his advice and mentoring.

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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS SUPER GLOBAL: MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OVER \$10 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



STEVE CLANCY
SVP AND CIO, GEORGIA
PACIFIC

► **Bio:** Clancy assumed his current role in early 2017, and previously served as vice president of the packaging and cellulose segment of Georgia Pacific. He started at GP, which employs more than 35,000 people at nearly 200 global locations, in 1995 as IT manager. Prior to GP, Clancy worked various IT positions at Morton Thiokol. He graduated from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and has an MBA from University of Southern New Hampshire.

► **Success story:** The accomplishment I am most proud of is igniting the organization, both IT and our business segments, to rally behind the vision of a world-class IT team leading the way into the digital age. GP had begun embracing the need to digitally transform, and I understood the critical role IT has in making that journey successful. With a strong case for change and the opportunity to develop our team, I pioneered the new IT vision. The “3-10 Strategy” is now the drumbeat for the teams and a common vernacular to secure investment and organizational support for the IT mission.



ALAN FRALICK
CIO, CRH AMERICAS
MATERIALS

► **Bio:** With more than 25 years of experience, Fralick focuses on developing partnerships across businesses to enhance the mission of his company. He graduated from Marshall University and serves in volunteer roles in scouting, tech and sports.

► **Success story:** My greatest success at CRH is being a part of a complete IT transformation. When I joined CRH, IT lacked vision and strategy, had poor user satisfaction, few project successes and an aging infrastructure. Now, we have the ability to propose, gain approval and execute an SAP S4 Hana greenfield ERP in nine months with one open defect at the end of day one go-live. This success reflects five years of building a team that successfully matured our functional capabilities, tools and processes, resulting in organizational trust that we can deliver the right solution at the right time.



TREY KEISLER
CIO SUPPLY CHAIN,
GE POWER

► **Bio:** Keisler began in his current role in 2018. He joined the company in 2001 out of Greenville, S.C., and moved to Salem, Va., in 2005 as IT leader for the Controls COE. In 2007, Keisler moved to Ohio for another IT leadership position, and relocated to Atlanta in 2011. He graduated from Georgia Tech and worked for Price-WaterhouseCoopers following college.

► **Success story:** As a servant leader, I am nothing without my team. This last year was arguably the toughest in history for our business. We managed through the last year with less than 3% attrition. I am proud of the culture we have established by connecting the IT team with specific business outcomes required for our turnaround. This connection to “fixing” the business with the technology we bring has kept my team engaged and committed, and allowed them to dismiss the negative external press.



LAURA MILLER
GLOBAL CIO, IHG

► **Bio:** Before joining IHG, Miller was SVP at First Data Corporation, and has held leadership positions at TD Ameritrade, The Patent and Trademark Office and British Aerospace PLC. She has a master's degree in computer systems management from University of Maryland, has won numerous awards and serves on several boards.

► **Success story:** My greatest source of pride in my work is the evolution of IHG's Global Technology organization. This organization is focused on being a strategic business partner to deliver more, faster and maximize business value, which is a passion for me. As one example, I was pleased to lead the Global Technology team in the development and launch of a transformational new platform, IHG Concerto™, which brings together many applications our hotels use each day in a single, easy-to-use application that is foundational for future revenue growth and a better guest and hotel experience.



RAHUL SAMANT
EVP AND CIO, DELTA AIR
LINES INC.

► **Bio:** Samant joined Delta in 2016. Previously he was chief digital officer at AIG. He also held leadership roles at Bank of America over the course of more than 20 years. He graduated from Mumbai University and has an MBA from Wake Forest University.

► **Success story:** We have fortified our infrastructure, established a state-of-the-art data center and embarked on our digital transformation. IT has allowed us to introduce tech including the first biometric terminal in the U.S., SkyMiles as a form of payment, single view of the customer and operational machine learning tools. I'm most proud of strengthening our most valuable asset, our people. We've quickly hired more than 500 people and created a culture that values and blends airline domain knowledge and contemporary skills.

A large satellite with multiple solar panel arrays is shown in orbit against a blue sky with clouds. The satellite is angled diagonally across the frame.

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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS GLOBAL: MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



KAREN BIRD
CIO, HOOTERS OF
AMERICA LLC

► **Bio:** Bird joined the executive team in July 2017. Previously, she was VP of IT for Buffalo Wild Wings. Prior to joining Buffalo Wild Wings, Bird was a tech executive for Whataburger Restaurants, Brinker International, Advantica Restaurant Group and Dunkin Brands. She graduated from University of Phoenix, Boston and has served on various boards.

► **Success story:** My greatest accomplishment has been hiring the talented team that delivers the technology systems and services that drive innovation, meet our strategic initiatives and provide service and support. With the growing business demand for the integration of digital ordering services, it had become challenging to deliver our business initiatives in accelerated time frames without the right team in place. While we still have hurdles and sometimes mistakes to overcome, great progress is being made.



MITCHELL GERSTEN
CIO, COX
AUTOMOTIVE

► **Bio:** Gersten has almost 25 years of experience in tech and joined Cox Automotive in 2008. He held senior tech leadership positions for Mannheim and, more recently, Cox Automotive's Enterprise Platforms organization. He graduated from SUNY Buffalo and has an MBA from Baruch College.

► **Success story:** I am most proud of realigning our technology strategy to meet our company mission during great change, in both our industry and our company. We are improving efficiencies across a multi-billion-dollar business that delivers more than 500 products to 40,000 clients, creating better client and employee experiences. We are innovating our service offerings, supporting growth through the cloud, enhancing security and consolidating enterprise operations while keeping our people at the center of everything we do, improving the employee experience through digital workplace programs, and enhancing our technology culture of trust, transparency and learning.



BEN PIVAR
SVP AND CIO, CARTER'S
OSHKOSH B'GOSH

► **Bio:** Pivar has 25 years of experience, 15 of which are in leadership roles in IT. He was formerly at Capgemini for 13 years and served as SVP there, among other positions. He graduated from UC Irvine and has an MBA from University of Virginia.

► **Success story:** My greatest success is the excellent performance of our IT leadership team. We've made significant changes by bringing in new leadership, aligning leaders with new responsibilities and promoting others to support their growth. Maybe more importantly, we've focused on defining new ways of working, including: better leadership-team collaboration; supporting each other's decisions; holding ourselves and our teams accountable, including increased performance measurement and shifting our model to help all parts of our business including areas we weren't aligned with previously; and more openly and honestly providing feedback to each other.



SHIRL STROEING
SVP AND CIO, PARADIES
LAGARDÈRE

► **Bio:** Stroeing has held her current position since June 2016. She has more than 30 years of experience in retail IT and store support services including 18 years as senior management. Prior to joining Paradies Lagardère, Stroeing was CIO and VP at Weis Markets Inc., and also held positions at SUPERVALU Inc. She has a bachelor's degree from University of Minnesota St. Cloud and an MBA from University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. She is on the board of Women in Technology (WIT) Georgia.

► **Success story:** My greatest accomplishment has as much to do with people as it does technology. Previously, IT was viewed primarily as a help desk and called upon largely to fix problems. As a member of the executive team, I aligned with decisionmakers to utilize technology as a business driver and differentiator. I acquired talent and assembled a high-performing IT team that partners with business units to impact our company's growth and success. This team is now positioned to advance business capabilities and build innovative solutions.



HILTON STURISKY
GLOBAL CIO, CRAW-
FORD AND COMPANY

► **Bio:** Sturisky previously served as CIO of Spirit Airlines and BCD Travel. Prior to his tech work in the travel industry, Sturisky was VP of IT at Harland Clarke, and also worked in IT leadership positions at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. He has degrees from University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, as well as graduate degrees from Emory University and Georgia Tech.

► **Success story:** Digital disruption is driving our industry. My goal has been to position Crawford to lead disruption by lowering operational costs and investing in innovation. Crawford Claims Fabric is an aggressive consolidation of multiple global claims systems with advanced API architecture that facilitates the integration of internal and external systems, dramatically increasing workflow efficiencies and improving data exchange with clients. The development of this solution has been complicated by misconceptions and complex legacy systems and I was able to overcome these challenges. We go live Q1 2020.

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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS LARGE ENTERPRISE: ORGANIZATIONS WITH OVER \$1 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE



NEIL BRINSON
CTO, CORE &
MAIN

► **Bio:** Brinson joined US Filter, one of Core & Main's legacy businesses, more than 20 years ago and has held leadership positions in several IT areas including help desk, infrastructure, information security and product management. Brinson also played a role in the over 25 mergers and acquisitions that formed Core & Main. He studied computer science at Valdosta State University and began his career as a systems engineer.

► **Success story:** In August 2017, we were divested from our parent company and became a stand-alone business under new private equity ownership. We were effectively a \$2.5 billion start-up with 3,000 employees, 250 locations, limited IT staff, no IT infrastructure and only 12 months to fully exit. Exactly one year later, we claimed victory after building out new data centers using a hybrid-cloud architecture, moving 250 sites to a new network, migrating 3,000 associates' devices and migrating more than 100 business applications to this new environment.



RYAN ESPARZA
CIO, JACKSON
HEALTHCARE

► **Bio:** Prior to joining his current company, Esparza was vice president of software engineering at The Weather Company. Previously, he was a global innovation manager at IHG, where he launched the world's first mobile key platform. He sits on the boards of several tech organizations and has a bachelor's degree from University of Texas at Austin. He also studied at Tecnológico de Monterrey and is a licensed pilot and scuba diver.

► **Success story:** The greatest success in my current role is the people and the progress we have made as a team. A few years ago, there was a need for help (during business hours) and no hands were raised. Now, when a call for volunteers is extended, there's not a single member who doesn't participate, including on the weekends. The team trusts each other and the results show in our productivity and demeanor. We even won a prize during our annual Halloween costume contest...as a team



ROHIT LAL
VP AND CIO,
SAIA INC.

► **Bio:** Prior to Saia, Lal spent 10 years at The Coca-Cola Company. He began his career as a programmer, has consulted on IT strategy and has developed, sold and managed many ERP and supply chain applications across global companies. He has a chemical engineering degree from The Indian Institute of Technology.

► **Success story:** The highlight of my success is transforming the IT culture and redefining the perception and role of IT within our business. Now, IT and the business teams work collaboratively to develop solutions that have increased revenue and delivered operational efficiencies. To achieve this, I developed a strategic plan based on redesigning the organizational structure and governance, changing key leadership, cross-training, dismantling IT and business silos, and introducing modern technologies and agile processes. With this cultural foundation in place, innovating, catalyzing digital transformation and meeting new business challenges head-on is more possible than ever before.



MICHAEL MUNCY
CIO, AVEANNA
HEALTHCARE

► **Bio:** Muncy started in his current role in March 2017. Previously, he was enterprise program manager and then CIO at PSA Healthcare. He also has held positions at companies including geneME, Global Impact Healthcare Management and Beazer Homes. He has a bachelor's degree in business from Morehead State University.

► **Success story:** Aveanna Healthcare was born from a merger of PSA Healthcare and Epic Health Services. PSA was half the size of Epic at the time the merger was announced, which was three months after I took on the role of CIO for PSA Healthcare. As this was my first CIO role in my career, I expected the role to be challenging, but I can't imagine a better opportunity.



DARRELL RIEKENA
CIO, REPUBLIC NATIONAL
DISTRIBUTING
COMPANY

► **Bio:** Riekana has held tech and business leadership roles in companies including National DCP LLC, Target Corporation, Kroger Company and JCPenney Company. He also has served on many industry councils and won awards.

► **Success story:** The greatest success in my role has been collaborating with our business partners to deliver our digital transformation. To accelerate the delivery of our digital platform and enhance the way we go to market, we formed a strategic alliance with Liberation Distribution (LibDib). This has enabled us to build our digital product catalog, ecommerce platform and supplier portal. This includes improved product information, access to more data/insights, enhanced ordering capabilities and real-time visibility.

2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS ENTERPRISE: ORGANIZATIONS WITH OVER \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



BRIAN BAGGETT
CIO, CARESTREAM
DENTAL

► **Bio:** Prior to his current position, which he started in 2017, Baggett was VP of Carestream Health. He spent 14 years at Bausch + Lomb, including as its director of business technologies. He received both his bachelor's degree in civil engineering and graduate degree in structural engineering and construction management from SUNY Buffalo.

► **Success story:** Leading the information technology carveout of a newly created company. Hiring a fully capable IT organization and standing up a full IT landscape. To be successful required an enormous leap in strategic and critical thinking. The speed of implementation coupled with the massive amount of change required a foundational shift in approach.



BERNARD GAY
CIO, NTHRIVE

► **Bio:** Gay leads the IT, procurement and facility organizations. Previously, Gay was CIO of Delaware North, and SVP and CIO of Brookfield Hospitality. He has held CIO and other IT leadership positions in companies including Kerzner International and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. He graduated from Gardner-Webb University and has an MBA from Rochester Institute of Technology.

► **Success story:** The greatest accomplishments to date in my current role first began with assembling a talented leadership team and staff. Given that our company is three years young and comprised of five companies merging across that period, creating some stability and direction was necessary. The initiative to build our first SAAS Business Analytics & Data Insight product offering stands out as the greatest [success] thus far.



**CHRISTOPHER
LINDNER**
CIO, MANHATTAN
ASSOCIATES

► **Bio:** Prior to joining his current company, Lindner was director of the enterprise tech group for Fiserv. He joined Fiserv in 2008 from KPMG. He has more than 20 years of IT experience.

► **Success story:** We partnered with R&D to develop an environment and delivery pipeline that has allowed us to achieve dramatic outcomes in transforming our product offerings. This involves embracing the public cloud, providing the agility necessary to deliver new products in rapid fashion, from concept to first-generation product in 18 months. This has allowed us to deploy innovation at a pace not seen in our industry (new capabilities every 2 weeks).



PRAMESH NAIK
CIO, TROUTMAN
SANDERS LLP

► **Bio:** Naik started his current role at Troutman Sanders in 2017, and also worked for the company from 2010-2014. Prior to joining the law firm, he was CIO of Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, where he led an IT transformation. He started his IT career at Bank of America in London, moved to Serco and into the legal industry in 1998. He transitioned to the U.S., in Atlanta, in 2004. He graduated from the University of the West of England in Bristol, England.

► **Success story:** The IT department at Troutman Sanders demonstrates our commitment by discovering ways our lawyers can provide value-added services to their clients. Whether we are installing a simple tool that will enable the lawyer to spend more time on client matters and less time on administrative tasks, or we are developing a client portal, we find solutions that benefit lawyers and clients.



**BRANDON VAN
ORDEN**
SVP AND CIO, COUSINS
PROPERTIES

► **Bio:** Prior to joining Cousins in 2016, Van Orden was vice president of global applications for Novelis Inc. He spent 12 years with GE Energy in a variety of IT leadership roles. He serves on several boards and has a bachelor's degree from Xavier University.

► **Success story:** Cousins has completed two significant acquisitions since 2016. First, we closed the Parkway transaction, which resulted in a 114% IT network increase with the addition of three markets and 20 office assets. During the transition, data conversion and system integration challenges were magnified due to the legacy infrastructure's inability to support exponential growth. With a short timeline, we engineered a solution by recruiting IT talent, building new data centers, and completing the ERP cutover. The 2019 TIER transaction and 40% portfolio growth was absorbed with the combined company successfully operating from day one.

2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

GEORGIACIO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SAYALI JOSHI
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Joshi is pursuing her master's degree in information systems with a concentration in cybersecurity. She currently is a cybersecurity intern at Mohawk Industries and prior to her masters studies, consulted for Cognizant Technology Solutions. The Georgia State scholarship this year is sponsored by NCR IT Services.

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COLIN RELEFORD
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

A senior business marketing major minoring in sales, Releford is from Griffin, Ga. Last summer, he interned with Amazon Web Services in Seattle. Releford is active in several campus organizations including the Morehouse Business Association and the Morehouse Fraternal Council.



AKHIL HAZARI
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Hazari is a senior majoring in management information systems and real estate, with a concentration in information security and data analytics. On campus, he is involved in several groups including as president of the Society for Management Information Systems. After graduation, he will be joining Deloitte as a business technology analyst.



RHIANNAN BERRY
GEORGIA TECH

A fourth-year computer science major, Berry is interested in game development, augmented reality and human-computer interaction. She is president of Georgia Tech's game development student organization, VGDev, and is participating in an undergraduate research project in the university's Augmented Environments Lab.



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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS CORPORATE: ORGANIZATIONS WITH UP TO \$400 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE



GREG BLAIR
CIO, ONE DIGITAL
HEALTH AND BENEFITS

► **Bio:** Blair has almost 20 years of tech and business management experience and has worked for companies including Microsoft, EY and Accenture.

► **Success story:** Our journey to the cloud has been the most significant accomplishment to date. Getting away from on-premise solutions, leveraging the latest and greatest innovation that is happening in cloud platforms like Microsoft O365, Azure and Workday has enabled the company to eliminate many manual processes, have access to data they never had before and adds business intelligence around our data that drives market insights and new revenue streams. This has added efficiency to the employees' day-to-day operations, which ultimately drives higher sales and customer retention.



ROSS CREASY
EVP AND CIO, AMERIS
BANK

► **Bio:** Creasy started his career with the Federal Reserve and then held many roles over 15 years at Capital One. He also worked at E*TRADE for three years. Creasy has an undergraduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MBA from Averett University.

► **Success story:** My greatest success in this role has been changing the perception of IT in less than four months with respect to being resource-constrained, slow to respond and not focused on customer service. This change means the business areas now understand the importance of IT, and trust in our ability to execute and support.



WESLEY RICHARD
SVP OF INNOVATIONS
AND OPERATIONS, CLC

► **Bio:** Prior to his current role, Richard led the global applications IT group for IMG. He also was CEO of an IBM partner specializing in e-commerce strategy and implementation. Richard graduated from Tulane University School of Engineering and serves on the board of Atlanta's Society of Information Management (SIM).

► **Success story:** I'm thrilled to have led the transformation of CLC from a traditional licensing agency to a data-driven brand solutions company that leverages our data and systems to transform the collegiate licensing industry and drive strategies. Today, our systems and data are at the forefront of our business. Business decisions are not made without data, and the data comes from the systems that we developed.



MARCUS WASDIN
CIO, ATLANTA HAWKS
AND STATE FARM ARENA

► **Bio:** Wasdin's prior position was as CIO of Church's Chicken. He also served as VP of marketing and product management, and VP of sales support for SumTotal Systems. He has an undergraduate degree in business from Georgia State University.

► **Success story:** Completion of the \$200 million (\$22 million in technology) renovation and launch of State Farm Arena. I joined the organization at the beginning of the three-phase, 18-month project that gutted the existing 19-year-old arena and rebuilt it. Every element of technology was removed and replaced while playing an NBA season. In the latest NBA fan survey, State Farm Arena went from 16th to 1st in the league in overall guest experience. A significant criteria for this is arena technology.



DARRELL WINFIELD
CIO, PAYA

► **Bio:** Winfield previously served in leadership roles for companies such as Vantiv, Global Payments and InComm. Prior to joining the fintech industry, Winfield was a captain in the U.S. Air Force for more than 10 years and was an assistant program manager for NASA.

► **Success story:** Our biggest accomplishment to date has been the creation and launch of our Paya Connect platform. This cloud-based platform enables our partners to quickly create custom commerce solutions for customers in different channels, such as health care and education. To build this platform, I demanded a lot out of my team, and they were able to deliver an amazing product that is agile, easy to use and meets the evolving demands of multi-channel businesses.

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2019 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS NONPROFIT: GOVERNMENT, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



OMER AWAN SVP AND CHIEF INFORMATION AND DIGITAL OFFICER, NAVICENT HEALTH

► **Bio:** Awan has more than 22 years of experience in IT leadership in the health care industry. He joined Navicent in October 2016 from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems. He has won several awards and serves on industry boards. He has undergraduate degrees in accounting and computer science and has an MBA.

► **Success story:** I am most proud of the IT framework around people and processes to make technology decisions. This framework is producing consistent, measurable, high-quality, high-yield outcomes and has highlighted IT as a strategic asset for the organization. The passionate IT teammates, solution partner structure and the IT governance process are at the center of this framework. Each IT leader is also the solution partner for their respective clinical/business leader. Solution partners are weaved into the non-IT leadership and share transformative ideas with the executive team to help devise solutions/strategies that add business value through IT.



STEVEN FERGUSON CIO, TECHNICAL COL- LEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

► **Bio:** Ferguson has been in the IT industry for 23 years and has multiple certifications including Cisco Internetwork Expert. He has multiple degrees including from Columbia Southern University and a master's from Southern Polytechnic State University. Ferguson also is active in his local community in Lumpkin County.

► **Success story:** My greatest success has been seeing my employees and mentees move into IT leadership positions. This has afforded me the opportunity to identify and promote other employees into leadership development positions. From a strategic view, being entrusted to merge two critical business units within TCSG into the new Office of Information Technology and Data Resources has allowed my new, expanded team to tackle the reimagining of the admissions application process.



BRANDON KENNEY CIO, FORSYTH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

► **Bio:** Kenney has been a CIO for the past eight years, with more than 25 years of experience in technology. Prior to joining Forsyth County, he was CIO for Herschend Family Entertainment, a privately owned theme park company. He also was interim CIO at Saab Cars North America. He has a bachelor's degree from University of South Alabama and an MBA from Georgia Tech.

► **Success story:** The greatest accomplishment in my current role is bringing a consumer-driven focus to government. As we look at digital transformation within the county, we are focusing on delivering a world-class user experience and transparency in government. Our residents want to engage and interact with their government in similar ways to how they interact with technology in their personal lives. By implementing a consumer-based approach to government, we will have a more engaged citizen.



JOHN MATELSKI CHIEF INNOVATION AND INFORMATION OFFI- CER, DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

► **Bio:** With over 30 years of IT and security experience, Matelski has been in his current role since 2012. He has a bachelor's and MBA from Arizona State University, has been an active member of tech groups and is published in several trade journals.

► **Success story:** My greatest success is the transformation of the relationships between the IT department and the department/agency business units. IT is now recognized as a mission-critical service provider that enables growth and facilitates positive citizen and constituent engagement. This transformation required a change in culture and focus, and was guided by the following principles: whereby IT decisions are made based on how they will enhance business value, optimize solution capabilities, minimize cost, promote a "one county" partnership, and provide secure and available solutions 24/7/365 that meet evolving needs.



STEVEN MCWILLIAMS VP AND CIO, GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

► **Bio:** McWilliams has a bachelor's degree from Oakwood University and a master's degree from Purdue University, along with multiple certifications.

► **Success story:** My greatest success is how we put together one of the best teams I have ever worked with. Feedback that I get from our team has suggested they feel the same way. Non-IT staff, particularly those who have been with the organization for many years, have complimented me and our team for the fine work we have done and how our current IT group seems to be the first of its kind at GHA.

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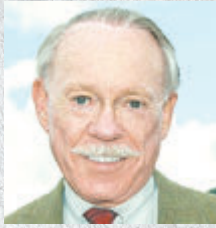
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