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GEORGIA CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBiE
AWARDS

The 22nd annual Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Corporate, Healthcare & Public Sector categories will be announced November 6 at the virtual GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Awards.

GEORGIACIO

October 30- November 5, 2020

CONGRATULATIONS 2020
GEORGIACIO OF THE YEAR® AWARDS NOMINEES

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Reef Technology

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TaxSlayer, LLC

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TOM HALL
Genuine Parts

JAMES HAMRICK
Gables Residential

KEVIN HART
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ROHIT LAL
Saia, Inc.

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Mailchimp

PRAMESH NAIK
Troutman Pepper

JAY NAYAK
Kids2

ADAM NOBLE
Veritiv

ONOME OKUMA
Chick-fil-A

BEN PIVAR
Carter's

KEN POINSETTE
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GINA STRICKLAND
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MICHAEL SULLIVAN
Southern Company / Gas Technology Solutions

KIM TREVISAN
Oldcastle APG

BATES TURPEN
Travelport

ASHOK VANTIPALLI
TireHub

PHIL VENTIMIGLIA
Georgia State University

GENE WEILAND
Capstone Logistics

MARC WEST
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2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

CIOs enable largest remote work experiment in history

At the beginning of 2020, no one could have imagined the enormous change we would all experience in the first year of this new decade.

By mid-March, chief information officers everywhere began to realize that their systems and teams would be stretched beyond belief in the largest work-from-home experiment in world history. Thanks to cloud systems, collaboration tools and services created by technology innovators, we have held virtual meetings, had food and goods delivered to our front steps, and remained connected to colleagues, friends and family. History will show we adapted, survived and adjusted to our new normal.

CIOs have led this overnight transformation from office-based to remote work environments. Without their planning and implementation of the systems and services to support remote work, conducting business would have been impossible. As a result of Covid-19, there's greater value placed on CIOs and the technological sophistication they bring to their companies to provide secure, available and scalable systems to

SPECIAL

Marie Mouchet is vice president and CIO of Colonial Pipeline Company.

enable digital business to prosper.

GeorgiaCIO is an executive peer leadership network focused on helping CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share success. Convening Georgia's leading CIOs in

member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls. This mission has never been more important than in 2020.

From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, GeorgiaCIO members have participated in regular local virtual collaborations and national virtual calls featuring CIOs from industry, higher education, healthcare and technology. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO. What was their experience? What did they learn? What would they do differently? How could other CIOs benefit from sharing their experiences?

Peer-based leadership groups provide a valuable return when leaders engage and share a common problem set together. The vertical/industry and size/scale might be different, however, similar approaches to effective leadership and problem solving are transferrable. Every CIO leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation, and

everyone wins when leaders unite, align and work together.

For more than 20 years, InspireCIO has been inspiring CIO success through the annual CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards, and 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 programs and interaction. The power of CIOs working together – across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations – creates enormous value for all involved.

Together, we are transforming our organizations with technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments, and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.

Sincerely,

Marie D. Mouchet

Marie Mouchet
Chair, GeorgiaCIO
VP & CIO, Colonial Pipeline Company

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

"The general prevailing sentiment is, if you're in a job category that can be performed well remotely, we still want to maintain the ability to come together in the office, even if we don't do that every day."

IBM

KEYNOTE

IT depts: mission critical

CIOs will evolve from their pandemic roles

BY RANDY SOUTHERLAND | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Today's chief information officers (CIOs) are facing challenges on every front. Charged with modernizing and protecting critical infrastructure, they must be adept at managing the unexpected, such as enabling an entire workforce to operate from home without missing a beat.

The challenges and opportunities confronting the modern CIO is the topic of IBM CIO Fletcher Previn's keynote address at this year's 2020 Georgia CIO ORBIE Awards, this year held virtually on Nov. 6.

Previn leads a global team of 12,000 whose mission is to provide secure, global IT at scale for 350,000 IBM employees.

During his keynote, Previn said he plans to discuss the structure of IBM's IT department, its philosophy and approach to delivering services to the business. This will include its focus on AI, cloud services and enhancing the user experience.

Another topic Previn said he plans to discuss is the technical challenges of providing and securing IT infrastructure for the company's worldwide employees in the midst of a pandemic.

"What does it take to shift from almost everyone going into the office to almost everyone working remotely in a short amount of time," Previn said he would address. "What does it mean to your operation when you've extended your attack surface, essentially, to everybody's homes or remote environments, where the home is now a school, an office, a multi-use environment? What do we need to do to

"We've gone through this incredible stress test of the system and, by and large, it's held up incredibly well ... The data corroborates that people are really working and being quite productive remotely."

make sure we maintain our security posture?"

IBM's IT infrastructure worked, even in the midst of disruptions like business and school shutdowns, he added.

"We've gone through this incredible stress test of the system and, by and large, it's held up incredibly well," said Previn. "The data corroborates that people are really working and being quite productive remotely."

What has yet to come into focus is the long-term impact of work-from-home on company culture, he added, as managers try to build team dynamics without employees gathering currently and likely gathering less once the pandemic is over.

"The general prevailing sentiment is, if you're in a job category that can be performed well remotely, we still want to maintain the ability to come together in the office," he said, "even if we don't do that every day."

At IBM, the first step to shift into remote work was to ensure there was enough remote capacity and VPN. The second step focused on security, Previn said, as he had to think "You've now extended your borders into a much more porous situation."

The company had to decide quickly how much access each employee, based on his/her security status and location, could have to IBM's internal systems.

"That required some engineering work on things like remote access, VPN, zero trust, our identity and access management," he said. "We need to

have visibility into what's happening on the endpoints, regardless of whether someone's connected to the VPN or not. So if it's me on a device, but I'm [working at a coffee shop] and I'm doing something unusual, we might make some decisions about containing you or limiting access for that period of time."

Perhaps one of the biggest lessons of the pandemic is how critical the IT department is to every company, Previn noted.

"There is no such thing as a non-digital business any longer," he said. "Technology plays a key role in every business."

Therefore, a company's ability to adapt its systems and procedures will determine success and possibly survival. "That was always true," Previn said. "It's just especially true now [during a pandemic]."

The roles and responsibilities of the CIO will therefore evolve, Previn said he would address in his keynote.

"It's a much more technical set of requirements on the job. It needs to be more than just a sort of financial or business person," he added. "It's got to be a person who can really be a technical strategic partner to the business."

CIOs must recognize that IT plays a role in providing workers the tools they need, but also in shaping the culture of an organization. "The state of IT is a direct reflection of what the company thinks and feels about its people," Previn said. "If we really believe that to be true, then how well we're doing our jobs is not trivial."

Fletcher Previn, CIO of IBM, leads a global team of 12,000 that oversees IT for the company's 350,000 worldwide employees. Previn is delivering the virtual keynote address for Georgia CIO's ORBIE Awards.

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

GLOBAL FINALISTS

Multinational organizations with over $1 billion annual revenue

SPECIAL

SCOTT DUFOUR
Global CIO, Fleetcor

Scott DuFour joined FLEETCOR as global CIO in Feb. 2019. Prior to joining the company, DuFour held several technology leadership roles at McKesson since 2013, most recently CIO for McKesson Europe. DuFour held IT and business leadership positions at Ingram Micro from 2006 to 2013, and at Elemica Ltd., from 2001 to 2006. His early career included roles at Accenture, Sun Chemical and Covalex.com Inc.

SUCCESS STORY:
"I would summarize this with one word: trust. In my short time at FLEETCOR, I've re-instilled our business partners' trust in IT, which has led to an improved culture embracing collaboration, additional investment in IT and growth in our business. To accomplish this, I first focused on IT effectiveness and transparency before pivoting to IT transformation strategies that both dealt with our technical debt and supported our business growth strategies. I continue to focus on the development of my leadership team, talent acquisition and effective organizational models."

SPECIAL

DONIE LOCHAN,
CTO, Invesco

Donie Lochan is managing director, chief technology officer and global head of technology, overseeing strategy and execution for Invesco Technology. He was previously the global head of information technology strategy, innovation and planning. Prior to joining Invesco in June 2015, Lochan served as head of corporate strategy and mergers and acquisitions for LPL Financial. Before that, he was a partner with Bain and Company. Lochan earned a BSc degree with first-class honors in mathematics, statistics and computing.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My biggest accomplishment is my role in transforming Invesco Technology from 'a supporter and/or enabler of the business' to 'technology as a competitive advantage.' We now work as a cohesive, global team that is both empowered and engaged to deliver value and innovation for Invesco. There are countless ways in which our OneTech team has provided value through transformational initiatives over the years. But it was only through the journey of this team that we achieved success."

SPECIAL

MIGUEL LOUZAN,
CIO, Lifescan

Miguel Louzan, CIO of LifeScan since 2018, has over 20 years of global IT leadership experience. He has broad international experience leading global teams and diverse industry knowledge, especially in healthcare, manufacturing, M&A and services. Companies Louzan previously worked for include SWM International, UCB Pharma, Boston Scientific (including in Brussels, Belgium) and Honeywell Europe in Brussels.

SUCCESS STORY:
Louzan executed global technology from Johnson & Johnson to create a stand-alone LifeScan organization in 18 months across 40-plus countries. He created a new IT organization/structure, simplified applications' footprint from 700 to 150 platforms, transformed from on-premise architecture to 98% cloud-based platform, and created an analytics and digital practice. In addition, the team brought several new capabilities around analytics, digital automation, process simplification, AI, machine learning and Factory 4.0 across the enterprise.

SPECIAL

BENJAMIN PIVAR,
SVP & CIO, Carter's

As Carter's Oshkosh B'gosh senior vice president and CIO, Ben Pivar is responsible for creating the vision and roadmap for IT while also managing project delivery, applications, security, infrastructure, desktop, business intelligence and support. He has 25 years of experience in retail, consumer products, merchandising, supply chain and IT. He has won several awards, is involved with the NRF CIO Council and the Amazon Web Services Retail Advisory Committee. He holds an MBA from the Darden School at the University of Virginia and a BS in Physics from UC Irvine.

SUCCESS STORY:
"Carter's IT team's greatest recent accomplishment was our support of the organization through the pandemic. We quickly rolled out collaboration tools, training and support for our business partners. We also conducted a trial work-from-home day. When we moved to work-from-home in mid-March, it happened seamlessly and was a key factor driving our company performance over the past six months."

SPECIAL

KIM TREVISAN,
CIO, Oldcastle APG

Kim Trevisan is CIO for Oldcastle APG, a North American manufacturer of concrete building and hardscape products. She is responsible for all aspects of the company's IT strategy across APGs 27 companies in North America and Europe. Prior to her role with Oldcastle APG, Trevisan served on the IT leadership team for some of the world's leading brands including Travelport, The Coca-Cola Company and GE. Most recently she was the vice president of global technology at Travelport. She holds a master's degree in IT from RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. Travisan is an advocate for women in STEM and sits on the ATP Advisory Board and the TAG Board of Directors.

SUCCESS STORY:
"During my first 18 months of being a CIO, I learned that building the right team is everything. While I've spent a lot of time this past year putting a strong technical- and customer-focused foundation in place, being able to create a culture where every member of IT knows that their superpowers are valued is one of my greatest accomplishments."

SPECIAL

BATES TURPEN,
CIO, Travelport

Bates Turpen has more than 20 years of experience in IT through application development, travel industry and call center solutions, security and operations. As CIO at Travelport, Turpen provides strategic guidance on high transaction applications, business process redesign, global information security and fiscal stewardship.

SUCCESS STORY:
Travelport transacted over $79 billion in bookings in 2019. Shortly after becoming CIO at Travelport, Turpen started transforming the business to simplify complexities and add value to the industry with next-generation platform development. "Despite the pandemic's unprecedented impact on the industry in 2020, my team has increased customer flexibility and delivered ERP solutions across the organization while accelerating our next-generation product development. Throughout the year, the team consistently achieved high performance, which is significant given the industry's data interdependence and its criticality for recovery and growth in the travel sector."

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Organizations with over $1.5 billion annual revenue

SPECIAL

GREGORY ALLARDING,
SVP & CIO, Mansfield Energy

Greg Allarding is CIO of Mansfield Energy. He was CIO and senior vice president of operations for Comverge, a demand response provider to electric utilities. A large portion of Allarding's career was with Accenture, where he spent 16 years managing complex system implementations and developing high-performance technology teams focused on process improvement and operations. Allarding has a bachelor's degree in management information systems from the University of South Florida.

SUCCESS STORY:
"The downstream oil industry has historically lagged from a technology standpoint. I'm transforming how we work within the Mansfield organization and influencing the industry at the same time. I have laid out a digital strategy anchored in five key tenets: connected supply chain; connected customer; connected workforce; connected machines; and advanced analytics."

SPECIAL

ZACK BISHOP,
EVP Tech, Operations, Security, Synovus Bank

Zack Bishop joined Synovus in November 2018 as executive vice president of technology, operations and security. Previously he was executive vice president and chief information officer of Renasant Bank, responsible for all digital operations. Before joining Renasant in 2013, he held senior leadership positions with Regions Bank. His banking career began in 1994 at Union Planters Bank in Memphis, Tenn.

SUCCESS STORY:
"Shifting the culture from being only focused on maintaining the current bank to building tomorrow's modernized bank has been the most considerable and most beneficial accomplishment. I get excited about competitors and disruptors moving into the financial space; it sparks a flame for us to build an environment to compete with all industries, not just peers within the banking sector. Synovus Banks' ability to recruit is at an all-time high. Jobs are taking days to fill instead of months. Technologists want to work for a winning team and we all want to be part of something great."

SPECIAL

ROHIT LAL,
VP & CIO, SAIA Inc.

Rohit Lal, CIO of Saia LTL, has worked and consulted with consumer products and supply chain firms in over nine countries. He aligns strategic business goals with technology initiatives across 11,000 employees at 170 locations and 18,000 vehicles delivering 40 million pounds of freight a day. Prior to Saia, Lal was with The Coca-Cola Company, where he managed the hosting of a global SAP instance for 40,000 employees in Europe, Africa and Asia. Later, he was responsible for the infrastructure due diligence for a $17 billion merger/divestiture within The Coca-Cola System. He holds a bachelors of technology degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology.

SUCCESS STORY:
"We achieved a lot during this turbulent year: moving office workers home at a company with no work-from-home experience; managing a team to be productive through multiple crises; and stabilizing infrastructure operations. Still, my greatest achievement is breaking down departmental silos and tightly aligning the business and IT priorities."

SPECIAL

RAGHU SAGI,
CIO, inspire brands

Raghu Sagi is CIO of Inspire Brands, whose portfolio includes more than 11,100 Arby's, Buffalo Wild Wings, SONIC Drive-In, Rusty Taco and Jimmy John's locations worldwide. Prior to Inspire, Sagi served as chief engineering officer for Sephora Americas. Sagi also held technology leadership positions at Walmart and Best Buy. He received a bachelor of technology degree in electronics and communications engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and a master's in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

SUCCESS STORY:
Sagi has been instrumental in the digital transformation of Inspire Brands, which has accelerated consumer adoption of digital channels and changed the way the company serves its guests. Over the past year, Sagi's team has integrated both SONIC and Jimmy John's into Inspire's enterprise applications.

SPECIAL

MICHAEL SULLIVAN,
VP & CIO, Southern company gas

Michael Sullivan is vice president and CIO at Southern Company Gas. He leads all aspects of the strategic delivery of technologies that support Southern's gas utilities and related businesses. Sullivan has 33 years of experience. Prior to joining Southern Company, Sullivan served as American Electric Power's (AEP) director of IT demand management. Before AEP, he held a number of senior enterprise technology leadership roles at companies including Allstate Insurance, Nationwide Insurance and Century Insurance Group. Earlier in his career, he was director of e-business and solution delivery at interactive agency Proxicom Inc.

SUCCESS STORY:
"The greatest success was an unplanned effort to divest four subsidiaries of Southern Company Gas. I revised our entire strategic approach and generated a tactical plan that allowed us to quickly pivot and financially close all four deals in a matter of two months, as well as the subsequent two-year TSA support to our divestiture partners."

SPECIAL

ASHOK VANTIPALLI,
CIO, Tirehub

Ashok Vantipalli became CIO at TireHub in 2018. Prior to joining Tirehub, he was global vice president of application delivery at Sage Software. Vantipalli spent more than 15 years in technology and management consulting, serving financial services, media and healthcare clients at McKinsey and Alvarez and Marsal (A&M). He also served as head of technology operations (U.S., Europe and Asia) for the Lehman Brothers. Vantipalli received a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics and statistics, with a concentration in computer science, from State University of New York at Stony Brook. He earned a master's degree in computer science from New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is board member of TechBridge.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My team developed customer digital platforms that created sustainable growth, as well as enabled our ability to acquire new customers and grow digital sales share from 30% to 85% in two years."

Proud to make a positive difference with Piedmont

Congratulations to Geoff Brown for being named as a finalist for CIO of the Year.

**With confidence, we move forward.
With heart, we #KeepCaringOn.**

Piedmont
HEALTHCARE

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Organizations with over $500 million annual revenue

SPECIAL

KEITH AKIN,
VP Technology Services, RPC Inc.

Keith Akin is vice president of technology services for RPC Inc. He has more than 30 years of experience in technology companies, having started as a software engineer for an ERP vendor and moved to project management and technical leadership roles early in his career. For the past 15 years, he has led and grown IT teams building PMOs, application development teams and customer support teams. He joined RPC's IT department in 2018. In 2019, he was promoted to VP. He graduated from the University of Georgia and has a BBA in Management Science.

SUCCESS STORY:
"As a first-time leader of an IT organization, I wanted to focus on the people and not just the technology. My entire management team read 'The Ideal Team Player' by Patrick Lencioni. All new hires have to pass our Ideal Team Player test. Since then, we have hired or promoted 26 people. All but three turned out to be 'ideal.' This has allowed us to focus on technical operations and project initiatives for our business."

SPECIAL

BOB BERRY,
CIO, Reef Technology

Bob Berry is a senior IT executive and consultant with more than 30 years of experience domestically and internationally in various industries including construction, financial services, insurance, REIT, retail, property management and ecommerce. Berry has been responsible for multiple reorganizations of IT operations during mergers, acquisitions, and right-sizing, including global consolidations. He holds a masters degree in public administration from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Vermont.

SUCCESS STORY:
"Over the past four years, what started as a group of parking companies has become a technology company, with the vision of utilizing urban spaces (parking lots/garages) into neighborhood hubs. IT has contributed to that vision by being agile and able to quickly consolidate a multitude of legacy business systems to one, as well as implement custom and off-the-shelf systems. While this is a team effort, the CIO role acts as the 'glue' in pulling these accomplishments together and keeping the team focused."

SPECIAL

MARCIA CALLEJA-MATSKO,
VP & CIO, Avanos Medical

As VP and CIO at Avanos Medical, Marcia Calleja-Matsko is responsible for all IT functions worldwide, including the strategic planning and execution of Avanos' global information technology services. Prior to her role as CIO, she held multiple senior leadership positions including at Avanos Medical (previously Halyard Health). Calleja-Matsko served as the global director for IT Data Center Demand and Business Management for SITA. She serves as a mentor through Women in Technology (WIT) and has more than 30 years of global IT experience. Calleja-Matsko earned her degree from the University of Florida.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My greatest accomplishment at Avanos has been leading and implementing an IT transformation program. The integrations of several acquisitions, as well the successful transition of employee's technical capabilities to work from home, has been critical."

SPECIAL

ROSS CREASY,
CIO, Ameris Bank

Ross Creasy has served as executive vice president and chief innovation officer of Ameris Bank since July 2019. Prior to the company's acquisition of Fidelity, he was CIO of Fidelity Bank since July 2018. Prior to joining Fidelity, Creasy served in various technology positions with E*TRADE, Capital One and the Federal Reserve.

SUCCESS STORY:
"This year, one focus has been to advance our customers' digital banking experience. We are continuing to deploy enhanced and upgraded digital features and solutions. Simultaneously, we are focusing on consolidating from four to two data centers with modern infrastructure solutions to help our overall resiliency and capacity. I am proud of the progress my team has made over the past 10 months and their continued efforts to deliver enhanced customer experiences."

SPECIAL

ERIC MUNTZ,
CIO, Mailchimp

Eric Muntz is CIO of Mailchimp. He has helped create web, desktop and mobile applications for early-stage startups, small businesses and the federal government. He has a degree in applied mathematics from Auburn University.

SUCCESS STORY:
Eric Muntz joined Mailchimp in 2010. He has led Mailchimp's engineering team and its evolution from building the Mailchimp platform during their early days with a team of three to developing programs that have transformed Mailchimp into an all-in-one marketing platform for small businesses with a team of 400. His work has enhanced an infrastructure that supported a few hundred thousand Mailchimp users in 2010 to over 12 million customers today.

SPECIAL

PRAMESH NAIK,
CIO, Troutman Pepper

Pramesh Naik is CIO at Troutman Pepper. His background in information technology spans 25 years. He began his career at Bank of America in London, moving to Serco, a Department of Defense contractor, and eventually into the legal industry in 1998. During his time working in the London offices of two U.S.-based law firms, Naik oversaw new office openings in Europe and mergers. He transitioned to Atlanta in 2004. Prior to coming back to Troutman in 2017, he served as CIO at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP. He is a graduate of the University of the West of England.

SUCCESS STORY:
On July 1, Troutman Sanders merged with Pepper Hamilton to form Troutman Pepper, with combined revenue of almost $1 billion. Troutman Sanders went from 650 to 1,100 lawyers, 1,500 to 2,700 total employees, and 12 to 23 offices. "Completing a merger of this size while moving to a fully remote work environment, while balancing furloughs, expense reductions and economic uncertainty, is my greatest accomplishment to date."

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

CORPORATE FINALISTS

Organizations up to $500 million in annual revenue

SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL

ERIC BRADLEY

Eric Bradley is CIO for TaxSlayer LLC, a tax filing software development company based in Augusta, Ga. He joined TaxSlayer as director of IT in 2016 and was promoted to CIO in 2019. Bradley leads the planning of TaxSlayer's data center modernization initiatives and works with the IT, information security and development teams.

SUCCESS STORY:
"Looking over my tenure at TaxSlayer, it is not the technical delivery I am most proud of. It is watching the work of the IT team as they continue to grow and learn from one another every day to be better engineers, better teammates and even better people. TaxSlayer is a third-generation, family-operated business and we hold those same family values near to us in our daily work lives."

BLAKE BRANNON

As chief technology officer, Blake Brannon oversees all aspects of OneTrust's product and is responsible for defining the privacy, security and trust market, and OneTrust's product capabilities. Brannon evaluates industry trends and analyst research while driving product planning, design, customer advisory testing and product launch activities. Prior to OneTrust, Brannon was one of the first employees at AirWatch, where he served as global director of sales engineering and vice president of product marketing.

SUCCESS STORY:
Brannon's innovations are used by 6,000 companies, including over half of the Fortune 500, across 100 countries. This, coupled with being named America's No. 1 Fastest Growing Company by Inc. magazine, speaks to Brannon's ability to build technology that meets the organization's complex privacy, security and governance needs. Brannon and his team have been awarded over 115 patents.

JAMES HAMRICK

As vice president of IT for Gables Residential, James Hamrick ensures the operational efficiency and support of the technology platform, develops IT strategy and works with leaders within the company. He brings more than 20 years of experience in the IT field and the multifamily industry. Hamrick previously worked at RealPage as vice president - SmartSource IT, leading RealPage's IT. He was VP of IT at Bell Partners Inc., director of IT at Gables Residential and senior consultant at Ernst & Young (Capgemini). He received a bachelor's degree from Georgia Tech in textile engineering.

SUCCESS STORY:
Gables created a team focused on innovative technology for its apartment communities. The team's vision was to provide internet service and smart-home technology to residents in apartment homes, the parking garage and via other amenities. The network infrastructure is leveraged for smart locks, thermostats, leak sensors and light switches controlled by one mobile application. Hamrick's team has deployed this technology at two new apartment communities.

JAY NAYAK

Jay Nayak is Global CIO for Kids2 Inc. The company has 12 offices on four continents and serves customers in more than 90 countries. She is also leading the project and program management office. Since joining Kids2 in 2018, Nayak has increased technology delivery speeds by a factor of two to three, reduced operating costs while increasing speed and efficiency, built an IT team in less than seven months, and completed the selection and implementation of an ERP system and processes to support the launch of the new 72,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in China.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My greatest contribution at Kids2 has been transforming IT into a global technology organization. I started with the methodology of people first, then process and technology. I recruited a talented team. We focused on upgrading our global infrastructure and investing in the technology to support ecommerce. The largest of these investments was our Global ERP, beginning with the ERP for our new 250,000-square-foot factory in China that will soon hold 1,000-plus employees."
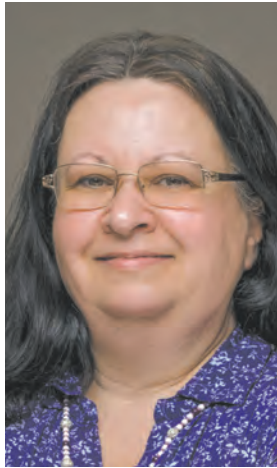
ROBERT SHEESLEY

Robert Sheesley, CIO, The Wrench Group, has 30 years of business and technology strategy and transformation experience in industries including healthcare, government, manufacturing and consumer home services. A U.S. Marine and Operation Desert Storm Veteran, Sheesley is a member of the board of the Veterans Leadership Program (Pennsylvania) and Pennsylvania REGION 13 Counter-Terrorism Task Force. He holds an MBA and bachelor's degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

SUCCESS STORY:
"Deploying a cloud-based telephony system, as a compliment to our existing core systems and infrastructure in the cloud in response to the pandemic, was mission critical. As essential critical infrastructure workforce, our ability to quickly move to working remotely in a secure manner was paramount to ensuring uninterrupted customer service. Implementing advanced security capabilities to protect our information assets achieved substantial risk reduction during this time of unprecedented change."

GINA STRICKLAND

Gina Strickland is CPIO at Miller Zell. Strickland has background in both technical and business process projects. She led a multi-year technology refresh project. In 2019, Strickland obtained her Six Sigma green belt certification and is currently pursuing her black belt. Having completed a CISA security auditing course, Strickland leads an annual plan of security training that has affected the company's security stance.

SUCCESS STORY:
"With a replacement of computers with laptops company-wide, our VPN to increase capacity, the addition of security monitoring software and implementing Teams in January 2020, we were prepared for the Covid-19 outbreak and the move to a remote workforce. I have executed an IT strategic plan that drives innovation. IT is focused on modernizing our software so each employee has the best tools. I am proud to have gained IT an advisory position with the executive team. I believe in the 'leader as a servant and mentor,' encouraging my team members to grow as individuals."

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FOR THE FUTURE

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

"A good leader has to be able to motivate people, make tough decisions when needed and embrace change while guiding others into accepting change as well."

Greg Morrison, CIO of Cox Enteprises Inc., until his retirement in December 2019, is receiving the 2020 Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Award for Lifetime Achievement.

SPECIAL

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Celebrating achievement

Greg Morrison leads and inspires

BY RANDY SOUTHERLAND | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For Greg Morrison, the job of a chief information officer was not just about technology but about leadership.

"Leaders have to develop people," said Morrison. "A good leader has to be able to motivate people, make tough decisions when needed and embrace change while guiding others into accepting change as well."

During a career spanning the military and several industries until his retirement last year from Cox Enterprises Inc., Morrison embraced that leadership, which is why he is this year's recipient of the 2020 Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Morrison grew up in the segregated South. His own school didn't desegregate until he was in the fourth grade, he recalled.

"During that time, society was structured to make black folks feel inferior, and I wasn't immune to that," he said, adding that he learned from his father how to overcome the negative environment.

"My father worked as a doorman at a private country club, and he was the most gracious and humble and optimistic man that you could know," Morrison said. "His optimism was infectious, and the power of that optimism was my first lesson in life."

His father was well-liked by the club's members and management, and that goodwill rubbed off on the younger Morrison. When he showed an interest in golf, club management equipped him with clubs, balls and shoes, "everything that I needed to play," he recalled. "Club members, who mostly were retired executives, would constantly give me advice, mentoring me. As a result, I had a lot of opportunities that I would not have had otherwise."

A turning point for Morrison was when a 10th grade teacher told him about "conditional thinking," which he explained was how society conditions a person to "believe a set of facts that limit your own potential," he said. "You could break that conditioning by starting to believe in your ability to achieve [and] to be successful."

Morrison said that by changing his thinking, he changed his life trajectory, improving from being a middling

> ## "He solicits feedback from the team and his peers but at the end of the day, he makes the decision that needs to be made."
>
> **JOHN PERRY,**
> CEO of Bluefin

student to the top of his class. His golf skills also improved, which led to several athletic scholarship offers. Morrison chose South Carolina State University became a top cadet in the university's ROTC program, at that time the largest in the country.

Morrison rose to the rank of captain and the U.S. Army sent him to Northwestern University for a graduate degree in engineering.

In the military, he recalled, "you're given a lot of authority as a 20-something-year-old. You're responsible for millions of dollars of equipment. You're called on to make life and death decisions about people. You learn how to present your ideas to superiors, how to be decisive, and how to problem-solve quickly on your feet and during adversity."

He said he also learned to be thick-skinned, which he said has served him well as he became one of the first Black people to hold several corporate positions. He spent 14 years at Prudential, eventually rising to the position of divisional CIO. After running a dot-com startup in the early 2000s, Morrison returned to Prudential to run a due diligence team for an acquisition the company was making in Japan.

He later was recruited by Cox Enterprises to be its first CIO, where he remained for 18 years until his retirement in December 2019.

Morrison joined Cox when it was investing heavily in technology and needed a more professional approach to guiding and managing that spending and employment, he said.

James Dallas, then CIO of Georgia Pacific, remembered meeting Morrison soon after Morrison joined Cox.

"There was a group of us – the CIOs at all the major companies in Atlanta – that started reaching out to each other," said Dallas. "We all were facing the same problems, so we said, 'Let's sit down and share [our experiences] with each other.' We started meeting and Greg just impressed me right off the bat."

Dallas described Morrison as the "first true CIO statesman," an executive committed to "taking care of company, taking care of community and taking care of family. Taking care of [family] means not only providing his time

and resources, but more importantly his wisdom."

Throughout his career, Morrison has impressed others with his ability to lead by gathering information and inspiring others.

"First and foremost, Greg is a consummate leader," said John Perry, CEO of Bluefin, who met Morrison when they were Army officers at the same post. "He solicits feedback from the team and his peers but at the end of the day, he makes the decision that needs to be made."

Mentoring has long been a passion for Morrison. Many of his mentees have also become technology leaders, including John Bell, vice president for IT Infrastructure at Cox.

"Greg believed in developing future IT leaders and he supported us through words and actions," Bell said. "He invested in me personally and challenged me to push beyond what I thought was possible."

He often advised his mentees to ask for what they needed and wanted, according to Elaine Norman, who met Morrison while she was CIO for United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta.

Morrison had joined a technology think tank she organized to help the nonprofit make the most of its limited tech budget. She said his ability to weave lessons and advice into ordinary encounters made a profound impact.

Viola Maxwell-Thompson, president and CEO of the Information Technology Senior Management Forum, met Morrison soon after he co-founded the organization, which is dedicated to increasing Black representation in technology.

Through Morrison, she learned about "interacting with senior-level [corporate] leaders, understanding how to talk to the board, doing presentations at the board level," said Thompson, who was then one of the first Black female partners in Ernst and Young's management consulting practice. "He also talked to me about making sure that I stay abreast of what is happening in the industry. It was not that I needed to know all the technical jargon, but how the technology was truly transforming businesses and making sure that I understood the value that technology was bringing to corporations."

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS

Government and education organizations

SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL   SPECIAL

BRIAN BENN,
SVP & CIO, Atlanta Housing Authority

Brian Benn is CIO and senior vice president of the Atlanta Housing Authority. Benn studied computer science and mathematics at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and has an MBA from Belhaven University. He volunteers with TechBridge, Atlanta Technology Professionals, the Government Technology Special Districts Program, the Greater Atlanta CIO Governing Body for Evanta and the Technology Association of Georgia's Southeastern Software Association.

SUCCESS STORY:
"The accomplishment that I am most proud of is the creation of our ACCESS initiative (Achieving Connectivity to Create Equity and Self Sufficiency) and our Academy of Digital Leadership. The ACCESS initiative employs a three-pronged approach to digital inclusion, partnering with internal leadership and private and public sector organizations to ensure hardware, connectivity and digital literacy for all residents. The Academy of Digital Leadership, a component of the third prong."

GARY BRANTLEY,
CIO, City of Atlanta

Gary Brantley brings more than 20 years of experience in the technology sector and 17 years of leadership as the CIO of the Department of Atlanta Information Management (AIM). Brantley provides IT services to 25 departments, including Public Safety, Justice, Operations, Administration and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. He created an Atlanta CIO advisory board. Before joining AIM, he was CIO of one of the largest school districts in the United States, in Ohio. Brantley began his career with IBM before becoming regional operations director for MCIWorldCom.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My greatest accomplishment has been transforming the Department of Atlanta Information Management on the heels of one of the biggest ransomware attacks in U.S. history, in March 2018. We have attracted, retained and empowered the best team to help overhaul this department. We have strengthened the city's infrastructure, improved its security and committed resources to ensuring we are at the forefront of technological advances."

JEFF MAY,
CIO, GA Dept of Labor

Jeff May has served as the CIO for the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) since 2012. He has over 25 years of IT leadership and management experience. Under May's leadership, GDOL became one of the first state agencies to replace a legacy mainframe system, thus reducing agency expenses by $25 million over 10 years. May is IT Director and Chairman of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Information Technology Support Center (ITSC) Steering Committee. He helped lead the GDOL's efforts during the pandemic to process over 1 million Georgians receiving unemployment benefits. May's served six years in the Georgia General Assembly.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My greatest professional accomplishment this year has been managing the effort to ensure that over 1 million Georgia families have received unemployment compensation during this pandemic. We increased system capacity to accommodate an increase of over 40 times the average monthly claims volume, without outage or downtime."

GAURAV SINGAL,
VP Technology, Georgia Lottery Corp.

As VP of Technology for Georgia Lottery Corp., Gaurav Singal has more than 20 years of technology and management experience. He has hired over 500 people, led the creation of over 250 technology assets and retired over 200 legacy assets. Previously, as VP of Technology at Goldman Sachs and XPO Logistics, he was responsible for technology strategy, engineering and security of applications, data and infrastructure.

SUCCESS STORY:
"In mid-March 2020, with Covid-19 challenges that have redefined how we do business, everyone's eyes were on IT. It was the greatest challenge of my career as we quickly scaled and digitized processes to continue operating virtually. I'm honored to be the architect of the post-Covid workplace at Georgia Lottery and support $1.23 billion in returns for the education for Georgia students."

PHIL VENTIMIGLIA,
Chief Innovation Officer, Georgia State

As Georgia State University's first chief innovation officer, Phil Ventimiglia has nearly two decades of experience. He serves on the advisory board for the Educause Learning Initiative (ELI) and as a mentor in Georgia Tech's Flashpoint program. Before joining Georgia State, Ventimiglia was vice president for innovation and new product development at NCR Corporation. He also was vice president and general manager for the NCR Hyderabad Development Center in India. Prior to NCR, Ventimiglia worked at Dell for over 10 years. He holds a master's of public and private management from the Yale School of Management and a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Connecticut.

SUCCESS STORY:
"This spring and summer, the work of the last several years has paid off as we pivoted the university to enable remote learning. We had already made significant progress toward a vision of a technology-enabled multimodal university to effectively support a combination of online, hybrid and face-to-face classes."

2020 CIO OF THE YEAR

HEALTHCARE FINALISTS
Hospitals and healthcare organizations

SPECIAL

GEOFFREY BROWN,
VP & CIO, Piedmont Healthcare

Geoff Brown is vice president and CIO at Piedmont Healthcare. He has over 35 years of experience. He joined Piedmont Healthcare in 2014. Prior to Piedmont, Brown served 10 years as SVP & CIO at Inova Health System (IHS) in the Washington, D.C. area. He has held several government appointments in Virginia, as well as positions including VP & CIO with Grady Health System, and associate hospital administrator and CIO at Tenet Health System's Atlanta Medical Center (formerly Georgia Baptist) and South Fulton Medical Center. Brown earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My greatest success has been the planning and integration of new organizations that have joined and partnered with Piedmont. In my 30-plus years in healthcare IT, I have not seen anything quite like the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Piedmont went from 300 to 15,000 telehealth visits, and has treated thousands of patients requiring hospital care by leveraging technology."

SPECIAL

JEFF BUDA,
VP & CIO, Floyd Medical Center

Jeff Buda joined Floyd as CIO in 2012. He was named vice president in 2016. His early career as a finance professional provides him unique insights to create competitive advantage through information technology. Buda led the strategy and execution of Floyd's telemedicine offerings, including enhanced patient/family communications during the Covid-19 pandemic. Buda earned his MBA from Kennesaw State University Coles College of Business and a bachelor of arts degree in business economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a board member and president-elect of the Georgia chapter of the Health Information Management Systems Society.

SUCCESS STORY:
Under Buda's leadership, Floyd's information technology has undergone a multi-year transformation focused on developing data centers, network and phone systems, and information security. Buda fostered collaboration, accountability and agility, and enabled the organization to develop new capabilities and continue its commitment to clinical quality improvement.

SPECIAL

ANDREW GOODWIN,
CIO, Harbin Clinic

Andrew Goodwin is the Certified Healthcare CIO for Harbin Clinic in Rome, Ga. Prior to joining Harbin Clinic in 2015, Goodwin served in senior IT leadership positions, most recently as CIO at the Georgia Hospital Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and computer science from the University of Maine at Farmington and a master's degree in geographic information systems from the University of Maine at Orono. He holds an associate degree in forest management from the University of Maine, and is a member of the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

SUCCESS STORY:
"I have always strived to build a top-tier IT team. This meant I had to first reorganize the IT and IS departments into one new ITS team with a singular mission and vision. All of the great technology achievements at Harbin have been due to this team."

SPECIAL

JASON JAMES,
CIO, Net Health

Jason James, Net Health's CIO, oversees the technological delivery of the company's SaaS products. James has 20-plus years of experience and is a frequently published IT thought leader, podcast guest and industry speaker. Prior to joining Net Health, he directed IT for several fast-growth technology companies including EarthLink, PRGX and Servigistics. He holds a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University and a master's degree in applied information management from the University of Oregon. He was a finalist for the Constellation Research SuperNova Award (2020). He is involved in TechBridge and Technology Association of Georgia.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My role as CIO evolved beyond that of a technology business leader to that of a culture leader, focused on enabling employee connections and engagement. Our company's mission is to reunite caregivers with their callings. In a way, I have directly supported that mission by ensuring our employees are reunited during this crisis, perhaps my greatest accomplishment as CIO."

SPECIAL

MICHAEL MUNCY,
CIO, Aveanna Healthcare

After spending over a decade in areas such as healthcare, retail ecommerce, university organizations and government entities, Muncy got involved in three healthcare startups, gaining a patent in radiology software and kick-starting a new model of health insurance/health care provider partnership. Finally, he made his way to Atlanta, working in geriatric home health care and eventually landing at Aveanna, where he has served as CIO for the last four years. Muncy is also involved in the Atlanta community through nonprofits.

SUCCESS STORY:
Michael Muncy has worked across all business units to integrate the company's technology infrastructure. He and his team developed an integrated SaaS structure in areas including recruiting, HR, payroll, accounting, finance, AP, clinical, sales, billing and field operations. The IT team transformed the underlying architecture of the company to withstand growth and quick assimilation of new acquisition targets that will help Aveanna grow.
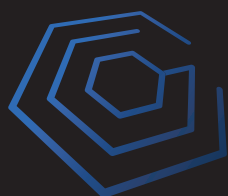
SPECIAL

JOHN SLAUGHTER,
CIO, Alliant Health

As CIO for Alliant Health Solutions, Slaughter is responsible for all IT systems, solutions, and integrations. He has more than 15 years of healthcare IT experience. Prior to joining Alliant, Slaughter worked in technology roles for Accenture, Hewitt Associates and Saba Software. He received his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Tulane University.

SUCCESS STORY:
"My greatest accomplishment involves an administrative simplification project that resulted in providers going to a centralized portal for all Medicaid prior authorization requests in Georgia. The project went live within one year. The initial promise of administrative simplification has also allowed us to digitize paper forms and manual processes."

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