

**Candidates for President-Elect of the Georgia
Chapter of APA 2019-2020**

Full Name

Daniel Studdard

**Position Statement**

I am currently Vice President of Chapter Services and Chair of the Chapter Services Committee, and I am running to be the next President of the Georgia Chapter of APA. If elected, I plan to do the following:

- Ensure GPA continues to be on sound financial footing, particularly if a recession were to impact the Chapter's revenue in the next few years
- Work with the Emerging Planners Group and planning students to serve their needs and build future membership
- Work with experienced planners to be sure the Chapter and our profession can benefit from their knowledge
- Continue to build up the new Policy and Advocacy Committee so that GPA can have a more active voice in promoting and advocating for better planning in Georgia
- Build better relationships with partner organizations such as ITE, ULI, and others, so that we can more effectively work together and learn from each other

I've been able to accomplish a lot in my role as the VP of Chapter Services, in large part due to the dedication of members of the Chapter Services Committee. We did not have an active Chapter Services Committee when I took on my current role, so I began by reaching out to GPA members that might be interested in serving on this committee. Over the past few years I've been fortunate to work with current and past committee members including Kristen Wescott, Brad Belo, Megha Young, Caroline Evans, Scott Brown, and Beth Tucker.

With their hard work, we've been able to consistently send newsletters at the beginning of each month, include more content in monthly newsletters, send targeted newsletters to promote conferences and other events, and significantly increase our social media activity and the number of people we reach through social media. I've also increased our annual sponsorship revenue, kept our website regularly updated, and added credit card payment options to our website for the first time.

I've served as the Vice President of Chapter Services and Chair of the Chapter Services Committee since the beginning of 2016. I previously served on the GPA Board as an AICP Director at Large, and earlier in my career served as one of the leaders of the GPA Young Planners Group (now Emerging Planners Group). I also served as chair of the Orientation Tour Committee for the 2014 APA National Conference in Atlanta. I've spent nearly a decade in GPA leadership roles, worked with numerous board and committee members, and learned countless details large and small about how GPA operates, which has prepared me well to lead the Chapter. I hope you agree and vote for me to be GPA's next President.

Full Name

Whitney Shephard

**Position Statement****Professional Experience**

Whitney Shephard co-founded Transport Studio, a planning and engineering firm, in 2013. She manages diverse projects for nonprofits and local and regional governments with a focus on multimodal transportation, including active transportation, small transit systems, travel demand, and advanced geographic information systems. She has increasingly focused on healthy communities, promoting access to nutritious food and physical activity through policy and infrastructure investments. Ms. Shephard manages advocacy campaigns connecting public policy to equity, quality of life, and public health.

Whitney recently managed Georgia's Plan4Health project which produced recommendations for policy change in southeast Georgia to promote food access. She has presented Plan4Health results at conferences sponsored by APA, the Georgia and American Public Health Associations, SCAPA, Department of Community Affairs, and American Heart Association.

Whitney has twenty years' experience in both public and private sectors across the southeastern US. She began her career in metro Atlanta and has enjoyed the last eleven years in Savannah.

APA Experience

Whitney Shephard has served on the GPA Board as District 9 Director since 2014. She founded and currently chairs the GPA Mentor Program. She previously co-chaired the Young Planners Group and organized professional development and social events both for YPG and District 9. She represented Georgia at the 2017 APA Policy and Advocacy Conference, chaired the local host committee for the 2015 Fall Conference, co-chaired the 2013 Fall Conference host committee, volunteered at the 2014 APA Conference, presents regularly at GPA conferences, and is a member of the Programs Committee.

Whitney serves on APA's Healthy Communities Collaborative and Food Interest Group, and was a 2017 delegate to the National Conference. She is the Manager for Georgia Planners4Health, an APA initiative. Through Planners4Health, Whitney and her team developed recommendations for APA and the Chapter to promote collaboration between planners and public health professionals.

Community Experience

Whitney's passion for the built and natural environments extends beyond the planning profession. With her husband, she co-owns Green Truck Neighborhood Pub, a restaurant that features local and organic farmers and craft American brewers. Together they support the local food movement and a variety of organizations including the Savannah Bicycle Campaign and Savannah Tree Foundation. Whitney is active in leadership on the Food Policy Council, Healthy Savannah, Metro Savannah Rotary, Savannah Chatham Mobility Advisory Committee, Society of Women Engineers, and Sustainativity. Whitney was recognized for leadership in philanthropy and business as a Generation Next 'Rising Star of Business' by *Savannah Magazine* and *Business in Savannah*.

Education

Ms. Shephard holds bachelor's degrees in architecture and civil engineering, and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Southeast Georgia, a LEED Accredited Professional, and a Registered Professional Engineer in Florida and Georgia.

Position Statement

The Georgia Chapter serves both our members and our communities. GPA plays a critical role in the state and locally. At a time when planning and the role of government are under intense scrutiny, GPA must

- demonstrate the profession's value,
- partner with underserved populations in our processes and plans, and
- continue to pursue a shared vision among public, private, and nonprofit sectors in our state.

My goals for the term include:

- Promote planning and policymaking.
- Expand joint advocacy and training for members, the public, and policymakers through deeper partnerships with allied organizations.
- Expand member services to engage and retain planning professionals at all career stages; this includes the Mentor Program and additional networking and training for small groups.
- Update and implement the Chapter Development Plan and Work Program in collaboration with the Board.
- Represent Georgia at the national level.

**Candidates for AICP Director at Large for the
Georgia Chapter of APA**

(vote for 2, top two vote getters are elected)

Full Name

Andrea N. Foard

**Position Statement**

I am excited to seek re-election for the AICP Director at Large position for the Georgia Planning Association. Since 2016, I have served on the GPA Board of Directors as one of the AICP Directors and a member of the Awards, Programs, and Finance Committees. I have been actively involved in GPA in prior capacities including the 2014 APA National Conference Planners Guide Committee and the YPG Current Events Committee. I look forward to continuing my service to GPA on the Board of Directors to strengthen and increase the chapter's active membership, develop high quality programs, and provide beneficial resources to our membership.

In the past five years, I have held leadership positions in a number of other non-profit and professional organizations:

- USGBC Atlanta Chapter Branch Leadership Group, 2013-2015
- University of Alabama-Birmingham Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center (MHRC) Young Professionals Board (YPB) Member, 2012-2014
- DeKalb-Adams Stadium Relay For Life Committee, 2010-2015
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Phi Phi Omega Chapter
 - Assistant Membership Chair, 2013

From my experience in other successful organizations, diversity in leadership, comprehensive program topics and events, and opportunities for professional development are the keys to success. As a Director at Large, my focus will be on *collaboration, connections, and communication*. I intend to work with the Board to:

- Foster *collaboration* within our chapter committees and with our allied organizations to promote planning and enhance professional development opportunities;
- Build *connections* and strategic partnerships with other local and national organizations to promote the planning profession and increase our community engagement; and
- Improve *communications* with chapter members to increase awareness of relevant events and opportunities.

Professionally, I am employed as the Transit Division Manager/Deputy Director for the Cobb County Department of Transportation. In this role, I manage the contracted daily operation and maintenance for the county's transit system, CobbLinc, and plan for system enhancement and expansion. Prior to joining Cobb County less than a year ago, I worked at WSP in the Planning and Environment Group for over six years serving as a Task Lead and Lead Planner on several major transit planning and environmental planning projects in the metropolitan Atlanta area for MARTA, the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), and the Atlanta BeltLine.

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech. Additionally, I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Real Estate Development from Georgetown University. I am an AICP-certified professional planner and am credentialed by the USGBC as a LEED Accredited Professional with specialty in Building Design and Construction (LEED AP BD+C). I currently serve on the Membership Committee for the Atlanta Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) and am active in various other civic and community organizations.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue service to GPA as an AICP Director at Large. I look forward to contributing my knowledge and experience and working with our leadership to strengthen our organization during this exciting and challenging time for planning at the local, regional, state, and national levels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Full Name

Cristina C Pastore, AICP, PE

**Position Statement**

I have been a transportation planner and traffic engineer at Kimley-Horn in Atlanta for the past 13 years. As a member of GPA, I have been AICP Director at Large since 2016 and have overseen the annual awards program for five of the past six years. I previously served as Co-Leader of the Young Planners Group from 2009 to 2012, was a member of the Mentor Program from 2015 to 2016, and served on the Local Host Committee for the APA conference in Atlanta in 2014.

In my role as the AICP Director at Large for the 2018-2020 term, I would like to advance the following initiatives:

- Build a strong Awards Program team that can assist with the oversight of the Fall Awards Program where we recognize outstanding planning work and individuals from across the state.
- Assist with local programming within District 3 and coordinate with other District leaders across the state. The Metro Atlanta area has the largest concentration of planners within Georgia, so many opportunities exist for social, educational, or community service activities. I have been working with the Allied Organizations Committee to find opportunities to partner with other professional organizations and would like to plan one to two partner events each year.
- Continue to grow and engage young and emerging planners – Georgia has multiple outstanding planning schools whose graduates will become the future of our profession. Through my early work with the Young Planners Group, now the Emerging Planners of Georgia (EPG), it is important to me to continue to encourage a strong connection between GPA and EPG so that our emerging planners become active members of GPA as well. In addition, I would like to create opportunities to teach youth about city and regional planning through creative, interactive projects.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your AICP Director at Large for the last two years, and I look forward to continuing to serve GPA for another term.

Full Name

Thomas Lee Thomson

**Position Statement**

As a 2018 inductee to the College of Fellows of AICP and now engaged in a private consulting role after 38 years in responsible public-sector positions in Milwaukee, Miami, Tampa and Savannah, I would be honored to serve as AICP Director for the Georgia Chapter of APA. What I can promise is responsible participation, engagement with members and focus on new planners achieving membership in AICP. I would appreciate your support for AICP Director.

**Candidates for Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 of the
Georgia Chapter of APA**

Full Name

Marilyn P Hall

Position Statement

Marilyn Hall, AICP currently serves as Senior Water Resources Planner for the Public Utilities Department of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. She is responsible for long term capital improvements planning, implementing Athens' new water reuse program, updating the Watershed Protection Plan, Managing the Water Loss Program, overseeing the Water Conservation Office, and special projects.

Ms. Hall has worked in Environmental Planning and Public Utilities since 1997. She was one of seven invited experts for the American Planning Association Drought Mitigation/Preparedness Symposium in Chicago and helped write Planning for Drought (PAS 574, October 2013).

Marilyn currently serves on the Board of the Georgia Chapter of APA and the Steering Committee for APA's Water and Planning Network. She is a former Board Member of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and Chair of the Georgia WaterWise Council.

Marilyn has a BA in Economics from Northwestern University and a Master of City Planning from Georgia Tech.

Marilyn lives in Watkinsville, Georgia with her husband and two teenage children.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marilynphall/> <https://twitter.com/marilynphall>

Full Name

Tracie H. Hadaway

****Please note the ballot distributed by APA shows an AICP credential for this candidate, however this candidate does not have this credential.**

Position Statement

I currently serve as the Planning Division Manager for Troup County. I have over twenty years' experience in the planning profession. The majority of my career was spent at the regional planning level where I was involved with community development, zoning administration, local and regional planning. I firmly believe that communication and coordination are essential components in the planning profession, whether it is between departments, within county boundaries or at the regional level. This same emphasis on communication is something I will strive for within District 4 if I am selected to be the District 4 Director. This region will continue to experience growth and it will become even more crucial that the planners in this district have an avenue to exchange ideas and offer assistance to our colleagues when needed. My education includes a Bachelor's of Science, a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Community Planning from Auburn University.

Full Name

Toussaint Kirk

Position Statement

I would consider it an honor to serve the Georgia Planning Association (GPA) in the role of District 4 Director and represent the interests and concerns of planners in this region. Currently, I am the Director of Planning and Development Services for the City of Griffin. I have been in the planning profession since 2010, where I started as an Associate Planner with the City of Griffin. In June 2013, I took a position with the City of Fairburn as their City Planner and eventually returned to the City of Griffin as their Director in October 2014. I hold a Master of Urban & Regional Planning Degree from Alabama A&M University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography from Auburn University. Prior to working in planning, my career began in Austin, TX working for Ryland Homes, a national homebuilder. They offered a five year Management Trainee Program that allowed each candidate to participate in each facet of the homebuilding process such as Land Development & Acquisition, Sales & Marketing, Purchasing & Estimating and Construction Management. In 2008, I relocated to Georgia and began working as a project manager with an asbestos abatement company as a commercial project manager completing interior tenant buildouts, restrooms at Tugaloo State Park, a house at the fish hatchery in Summerville, a storage facility for Winder Army Reserve, an addition for the Atlanta Area School for the Blind and other light commercial projects. These opportunities have afforded me an experience that fits well with my duties and responsibilities as the Director of Planning and Development Services. Additionally, the combination of public and private sector work experience has offered me an insight to both sides of the table that has help navigate housing and economic development opportunities. I appreciate the opportunity to serve Georgia Planning Association and I look forward to working with its leadership to grow the membership and reaching those smaller communities and mentoring future planners. Thus, creating a stronger professional organization and continuing to be a recognized leader in our communities.

Full Name

Martin H. Laws

Position Statement

Hello, I would like to start by thanking you for taking some of your valuable time to read my position statement. I have enjoyed serving as the District 6 Director for the Georgia Planning Association and having the opportunity to be a liaison to the planning community in the area. If re-elected, I would continue to not only represent those, in my area, to the best of my ability, but seek to bring others into the Planning fold. The Planning profession constitutes more than those individuals who simply are planners by education. There are many individual in the state of Georgia who perform planning roles for their local governments. I believe that the Georgia Planning Association should be the organization that provides necessary guidance on planning issues for the State of Georgia. I believe a better connection between our organization and rural governments can truly help move planning in Georgia forward.

Full Name

Matt Martin, AICP

Position Statement

Matt Martin, AICP City of Valdosta Planning & Zoning Administrator I began serving as the GPA District 8 Board representative in 2012 and I am now seeking re-election to continue representing District 8 for the next 2-year term. I began my planning career working as a Current Planner with the City of Fort Myers FL, then relocated to Valdosta GA in 1992 to work as a Senior Planner with the South Georgia Regional Development Center (now the Southern Georgia Regional Commission) for the next 10 years. I then worked as a private sector planning consultant for 8 years, and then returned to local government service in 2010 with the City of Valdosta. Over the years, I have served on numerous Committees within GPA and also other statewide and even national organizations related to urban and regional planning. I served for several years on the GAZA Board of Directors and was also a conference speaker on multiple occasions. I am certainly no stranger to the world of planning in Georgia and I have watched GPA evolve into a stronger statewide organization. However, with any strong organization there will always be room for improvement. The challenge will be for the Board of Directors to identify and prioritize these as we move forward. This is where meaningful input from its members will be critical for the future success of GPA. I also believe that the field of planning and our organization needs to step up and play an even greater role in some of the decision making that is going on at both the state and local levels. Like other parts of our state, I believe that southern Georgia too has an important viewpoint on planning-related issues that affect all of us, and these need to be included in the decision making discussion. It is important for the membership in this part of the State to be cultivated, with broad representation, and for us to build-up the profession in our area. This includes broadening the lines of communication and networking among planners, working to increase the number of planning-related events in our area for sharing our ideas and promoting our profession, and increasing volunteerism for the organization. I pledge to represent District 8, and GPA as a whole, to the best of my ability and I appreciate your support.