Florida State University's Board of Trustees

Edward Burr (Chair), of Jacksonville, is president and chief executive officer of GreenPointe Holdings, LLC, a diversified holding company he founded in 2008. After graduating from FSU College of Business with a B.S. in Accounting in 1979, he began his career with Coopers & Lybrand LLP. He founded the LandMar Group LLC in 1987 and led the company’s creation of master-planned, award-winning communities in Florida and coastal Georgia. Mr. Burr has also co-founded Hampton Golf & Lifestyles Management. He has served in several capacities with the FSU Foundation, the board of the Seminole Boosters and the Executive Board of the FSU Center for Real Estate Education and Research in the College of Business.

Maximo Alvarez, born in Havana, Cuba, received his bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in 1969 and his Master’s degree in 1970. Maximo founded Sunshine Gasoline Distributors, Inc., and grew the company from four gas stations to over 300 locations and supplier to another 250 branded retail facilities. Because of his humble beginnings, Maximo has always believed in helping the community as well as the industry in which he has spent most of his career. Maximo has been involved in the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association and was elected Chairman of the Board in 2000 and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2005. Maximo has been married to his wife, Esther, for over forty years, and they have three children.

Kathryn Ballard, of Tallahassee, has a long history of charitable and community work, including service on the Board of Directors of the Florida Special Olympics, the Florida State University College of Human Sciences Board and the Board of Trustees of the Maclay School of Tallahassee. She also served as Chairman of Maclay School Capital Campaign. Mrs. Ballard has been honored for Outstanding Achievement by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tallahassee/Leon County Historic Preservation Commission for her efforts to restore Tallahassee’s historic Lively House. Mrs. Ballard graduated from Florida State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Human Sciences.

Eric Chicken, of Tallahassee, joined the faculty of Florida State University in 2002 as a professor of statistics focused primarily in the fields of function estimation and statistical process control. His research is broadly interdisciplinary, with applications and collaborations in engineering, medicine, hydrology, education and operations research. He has been funded by the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Florida Geological Survey. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Defense Analyses (2016) and an Elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association (2015), the main professional association for statisticians, and he has been awarded two Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Fellowships (2015, 2018). In 2016, he received the Outstanding Graduate Mentor award from FSU.

Peter Collins, of Jacksonville, is Co-Founder and Managing Principal of Forge Capital Partners, LLC (“Forge”). Mr. Collins directs all private equity activities for Forge and is the CEO of Forge’s real estate private equity fund business. Over the last 20 years, Mr. Collins has overseen more than $1.5 billion of real estate and corporate transactions including over eight million square feet of commercial and residential real estate development/acquisitions/dispositions. Peter is a Trustee of the Florida State University (“FSU”) Foundation and recently completed a 2-year term as Chair of the FSU Endowment. Peter is a member of the Executive Committee of the FSU College of Business Board of Governors.

Emily Fleming Duda, of Oviedo, is an active member of the FSU Booster Club board, serving five years on the board’s executive committee. She was awarded the Godfrey Smith Award for Outstanding Service to the board in 2000. Ms. Duda also served on the board of directors of the Florida Leadership Program for Agriculture and Natural Resources, which is administered through the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Jorge Gonzalez, of Walton County, is the president and chief executive of The St. Joe Company, a Florida-based real estate development and operating company with additional interests in resorts, leisure and forestry. Jorge holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida State University. He serves or has served on various community, civic, and business related organizations including the Florida Chamber Board of Directors, Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, Bay Economic Development Alliance (current Chairman), Northwest Florida Manufacturer’s Council, Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center, FSU Panama City Development Board (former President), The St. Joe Community Foundation Board of Trustees, and Panama City Beach Chamber Board of Directors. Jorge is married to Pamela, who is also a proud FSU graduate, and they have one son, Jake.

Jim Henderson, of Longwood, is Chairman, CEO, and Founder of AssuredPartners, a national insurance brokerage firm. Prior to establishing AssuredPartners in March of 2011, Jim Henderson brought his insurance expertise to Brown & Brown when he joined the company as its CFO in 1985. Jim served in a variety of roles including President and Chief Operating Officer as well as Vice Chairman. Jim is a graduate of Florida State University with a BSBA in Accounting and Economics. Jim and his wife, Carole, have three children and eight grandchildren that all reside in Florida.

Craig Mateer, of Orlando, is the CEO and Founder of Orlando based Bags Inc. Mateer graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor’s degree in 1988 after attending the university on a basketball scholarship. Shortly after graduation, Mateer founded his first valet parking company which he has transformed into Bags Inc., a company that operates in more than 250 cities worldwide. Mateer is an active philanthropic supporter of the disadvantaged, multiple health initiatives, and has served on numerous community boards. Craig’s supports FSU as a member of the prestigious Mieco Club, the FSU Varsity Club, and a Seminole Boosters Platinum Chief. Mr. Mateer resides in Orlando, Florida, and has four children.

Deborah Sargeant, of Gulf Stream, is a Florida native who spent three years at Florida State University before finishing her bachelor’s degree in accounting at California State University Long Beach. She is a former member of the Governor’s Mansion Commission and volunteers her time with the Bethesda Hospital Foundation, Cason United Methodist Church and the Delray Beach Historical Society.

Bob Sasser, of Norfolk, Virginia, is the Chief Executive Officer of Dollar Tree Stores, the nation’s largest discount variety store. Bob is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He was inducted into the College of Business Hall of Fame in 2009 and returns to FSU when possible to share his experience and ideas with students and faculty. Bob serves on the FSU Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a lifetime member of the FSU Alumni association, a member of Seminole Boosters, a Double Golden Chief and a member of the FSU Presidents Club.

John Thiel, of Florida, is an FSU alumnus and former Merrill Lynch executive. Thiel is a dynamic board director, trusted business advisor, and visionary financial services CEO. During his 28-year career with Merrill Lynch, Thiel served as head of U.S. Global Wealth Management, steering the iconic financial firm through a period of unprecedented change, including its acquisition by Bank of America and overseeing a $15 billion business with 23,000 employees.

Jonathan Levin, of Coral Springs, FL, Florida State University’s student body president, is the 13th member of the Board of Trustees.

Online Resource: The Florida State University Board of Trustee’s website can be accessed online at http://trustees.fsu.edu/