



## **Meet Colin Penndorf, current President of the Alumni Association Board!**

Colin Forrest Penndorf of Macon earned a Bachelor of Art in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Minor in History and Political Science in 2016, and an Associates of Arts in Fine Art from MGA. He is currently the Gallery Curator for The 567 Center, Owner of Shape & Space Art Management, and President of The Ocmulgee Artist Guild.

### **Tell us about your career path and some highlights of your professional life:**

I was lucky enough to graduate from Middle Georgia State University in the Spring of 2016 and step almost immediately into my desired career path as Fine Arts Director for the 567 Center (for Renewal as it was known at the time.) I knew that I wanted to continue working in the burgeoning art scene here in Macon, and though I did not know exactly what that looked like, when this position opened, I realized that it was a perfect fit for me. My duties in taking on the Fine Art Director position involved hosting artists and curating exhibits as well as working firsthand with patrons while programming and staffing our ever-growing series of art classes. It was an incredible journey and learning experience, which I transitioned from in 2019 to pursue an executive directorship for an organization called Triangle Arts Macon.

Triangle was a living graffiti park in the industrial district of Macon and we hosted many unique events as well as artist studio spaces. After a few years of exhibits, events, and remodeled studios, I have since gone on to open my own business, Shape & Space Art Management. This business has allowed me to pull together all the skills that I have learned between the jobs listed above mixed with other wonderful positions that I have worked in, including directing the Ocmulgee Artist Guild and their pop-up art exhibits, event programming for spaces like the Phantom Gallery series in partnership with StARTup Studios, and the Macon Mural Festival spearheaded by the Macon Arts Alliance.

### **How long have you been on the Alumni Association Board?**

I have been serving on the Alumni Association board for 8 years, since the spring semester of 2017. I have served as a board member, as the Vice President, and currently I am in my second year as President of the board.

**Describe how being involved in the Alumni Association has benefited you now in your career and personal life?**

Being a part of and working alongside the Middle Georgia Alumni Association Board has been a very rewarding experience and one that I would recommend for many who believe in our school and its mission. I have had the privilege to work with—both at the school and in the community—a wonderful and wide array of individuals from our school that are doing exemplary work here and around the state of Georgia. As our university grows and continues to lead the way as an affordable, student-oriented institution, getting to work with such a robust board has facilitated strong connections between myself and MGA alumni who are leading the field in their professions and industries. Our meetings and gatherings afford us the opportunity to openly discuss a variety of topics, ultimately bringing in greater resources to the University and benefiting its alumni and students. A great example of a personal benefit for me is the Alumni Socials that we have been throwing for the last few years. These gatherings of alumni are great opportunities to return to MGA and have the University treat them to food, drink, and various activities while they get to connect (and in some cases reconnect) with cohorts who are out in the world doing wonderful things. It is a great way to meet your fellow alums, have a good time doing it, and make extra-lasting connections that could help you down the line. That is one small example of how the board has been a huge positive for me and for other alumni.

**What advice do you have for new alums?**

As you venture out of Middle Georgia State University and into the work force, I would remind you that you have many wonderful resources with this University backing you on your journey. With incredible professors, to a dedicated staff, this school is here for you as you move forward in life. And, of course, we want to see you come back to us and share your stories and successes with us and those following in your footsteps. You are one of the major factors in what makes this University great and I hope that you get to use your MGA degree proudly as you discover success in your field. And when you do, make sure to come find us and tell us about it all at our next social gathering!