



Communities of  
COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION

## MURPHYS' LAWS

by Valeria A. Hepburn, PhD, President & CEO, Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation



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Diana Murphy (front, center) as producer of Five Grands, Twenty Hands, benefiting the American Cancer Society.

After successful careers in newspapers and publishing, Reg and Diana Murphy relocated permanently to the Golden Isles in the early 2000s. A Georgia native and consummate hometown golden boy, Reg had introduced Diana to Sea Island and Coastal Georgia over their years

of partnership. Diana, a native of West Virginia, was drawn to the Southern hospitality and civic spirit. It helped that her mother was living in Jacksonville. In a few short years, the Murphys had done more than move to the coast, they had made it their home – and embraced the region's opportunities and challenges. *(continues)*

continued from page 48

In the beginning, they came to retire and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Yet, even for two avid golfers, one can only golf so many days a week – and their entrepreneurial spirits motivated them to find challenges and improve the world around them. They have turned their talents and business acumen into new avocations – and even vocations. Both continued their business careers, and even launched a few new endeavors, with significant board leadership roles. Diana learned the finesse of venture capital and has helped catalyze Georgia's bench research-into-products through her role as Managing Partner in the Georgia Research Alliance's Venture Fund, which supports the state's public and private research universities.

In their philanthropy, as in their business lives, the Murphys approach their causes as a full contact sport – investing time, talents and treasures. Reg and Diana were founders of the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, and they have recently joined a select group of Sustainers for the Foundation. Diana serves as member of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

In an effort to address the challenges faces by at-risk adolescents in Glynn County, Diana spearheaded the fundraising for and construction of the Elizabeth F. Correll Teen Center, completed in 2008. Part of the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia, ECTC, as it is fondly known, is heralded as one of the best such facilities in the nation. Diana chaired the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors and continues to serve on its governing board. The Club and the kids remain a key philanthropic passion for her.

Reg and Diana made the transformation of the College of Coastal Georgia one of their priority projects because they well-understood its economic and social value. In 2008, as the college began its move from two-year commuter college to a four-year destination campus, they were the first to raise their hands and say “put me in, coach.” Diana became a key member of

the committee developing the Strategic Master Plan. She quickly joined the Board of Trustees of the College Foundation, leading the early marketing efforts for the fledgling institution. She continues to be a member of the Executive Committee. In those various roles, she has invested countless hours shaping the scope and brand of the college while cultivating new friends to the cause and raising funds for a wide range of facilities and programming.

As the chair of the Athletic Futures Committee, Reg spearheaded the expansion of the college's intermural athletic programs and club sports. His thoughtful plans - anchored in knowledge and credibility - helped the college recruit its athletic program leadership and the coaching staff, including Men's Golf Coach and Two-Time NAIA Coach of the Year, Mike Cook. Reg continues to be the leading booster in the community for these successful athletic programs which have helped recruit outstanding student talent, from volleyball to tennis, and earned the college national recognition, through feats like back-to-back national golf championships.

In 2013, the College dedicated the Murphy-Kuchar Putting Green to honor Reg and Matt Kuchar, who became a supporter of College with the help of Murphy and others. Earlier this year, Reg was inducted into Georgia's Sports Hall of Fame – for significant, voluntary contributions to athletics across the state and nation. To bring real-world experience to the School of Business and Public Management, Reg agreed to serve as the first college's first Executive-in-Residence - gratis. For more than three years, Reg has been at the campus on a weekly basis - teaching, strategizing and problem-solving. He has provided authentic voice to the achievements of the private sector and the value of the public sector while nurturing the students and the faculty in their continued professional development. He also has served as the convener for the college's Coastal Conversations series. The school will recognize Reg's considerable contributions (*continues*)

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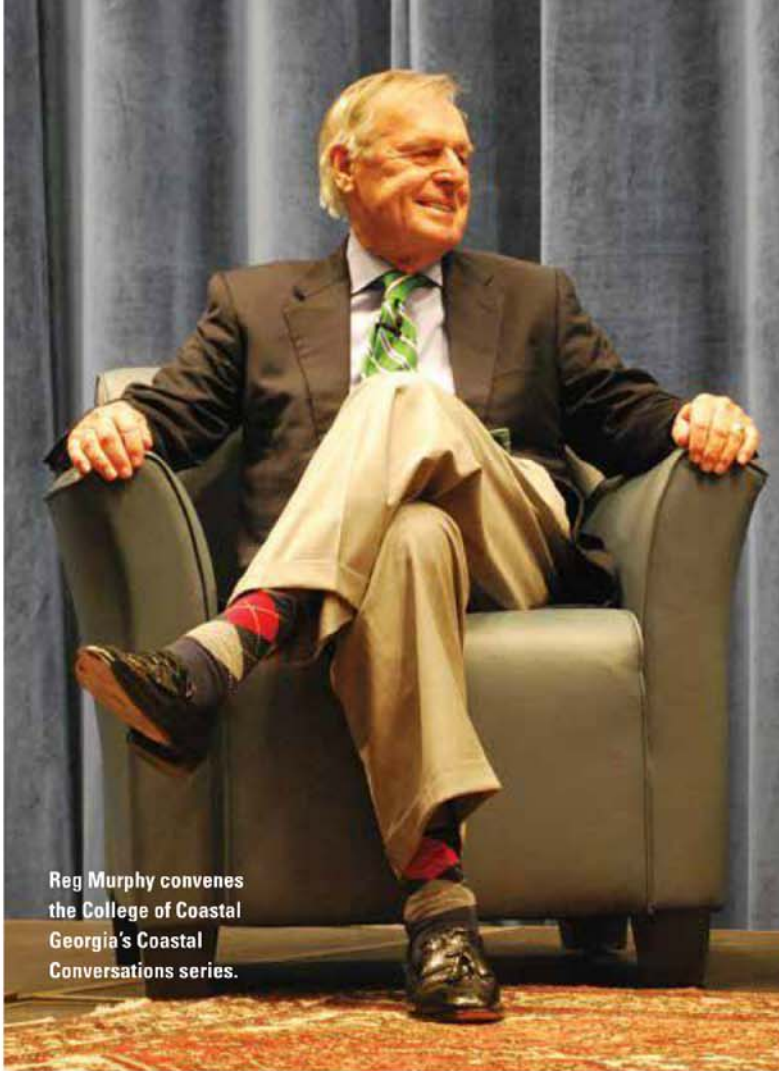
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continued from page 51

and service this October, by naming its research center in his honor.

One of the Diana's most treasured roles was her leadership as producer of Five Grands, Twenty Hands – twice, once in 2009 and again in 2011. This event, bringing together 10 talented pianists whose lives had been touched by cancer to perform in duo on five pianos, is fondly remembered by the community for outstanding performances and impactful fundraising. The American Cancer Society and the Cancer Care Center at the Southeast Georgia Health System were the beneficiaries.

While their community roles and contributions are significant, the ultimate in service and volunteerism has to be their respective leadership roles with the United States Golf Association (USGA). As the national governing body for golf, the USGA oversees the rules of golf and a wide range of tournaments, events and development activi-



Reg Murphy convenes the College of Coastal Georgia's Coastal Conversations series.

ties. A 15-member, volunteer, elected executive committee governs the work of the USGA and its staff. Reg Murphy was elected to that Executive Committee in 1989 and went on to serve as USGA president in 1994. His accomplish-

ments during that period, from landmark media contracts to improved racial relations, are well documented.

In 2011, Diana was elected to the USGA executive committee. She currently serves as vice-president and Championship Committee Chair. (And, yes, if you were watching, you did see her featured at the presentation of the trophy to Jordan Spieth during June's US Open!) The time, energy and investment that Diane and Reg have volunteered to governing and growing the game of golf surely is unparalleled among husband-wife teams. Moreover, Diana blends her passion for golf and kids through her work with the First Tee program, which introduces youngsters to the game of golf.

Reg and Diana truly exemplify philanthropy at its finest. For the causes about which they care, a financial contribution is only a beginning; the organization, its constituency and the community get so much more. Time, Talents and Treasures – those are our Murphys' Laws.

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