

The 705 2021-2022 Board Nominations



Abu J Chowdhury



Abu Chowdhury has been part of 705 for couple of years now having acted as a co-chair for the membership committee. He would love to continue his passion on networking, philanthropy and civic engagement through the 705. He adheres to the pillars of the 705 and loves Acadiana very much. Over the years he has learned so many things through the members and leadership of the 705 & wants to sharpen his skills to lead & learn more from the current leadership to the future to serve our community.

Abu Chowdhury has been part of many volunteering organizations in the community and loves Acadiana very much. Over the years he has learned so many things through the members and leadership of the 705 & wants to sharpen the skills to lead & learn more from the current leadership to the future to serve community. He believes in bright future of the whole region and want to be part of progressive leaders of the 705.

Aleisha Johnson



I was born and raised in Lafayette, LA, and moved away for grad school after obtaining my bachelor's degree in Business Management from ULL. I received my MBA from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and then began a 12-year career with International Paper Company. I moved back home last year for the family ties and tight knit community. I am a Supply Chain Professional that is embarking upon a midcareer industry transition from Manufacturing to Healthcare. I am currently enrolled in ULL's Post MBA Healthcare Administration Certification program. I have a fiancé, Ronnie, and a miniature schnauzer, Gigi! I love to travel, from a road trip to a hop across the ocean. I am also a social butterfly that loves to meet new people and network.

I feel I am a good fit for the board because The705's mission is directly in-line with my passion around personal and professional development. I want to be an integral part of grooming our members to succeed personally, professionally, and civically. During my career with International Paper I had the opportunity to live in major cities, from Portland, OR to Baltimore, MD. As a transplant, it was important that I get engaged in the communities where I lived. I was able to do so through national organizations like the National Black MBA Association, the Urban League Young Professionals, and The Junior League. I have chaired personal and professional development committees and programs. Through these organizations, and within International Paper, I had the opportunity to mentor high schoolers transitioning to college, college students transitioning to professional careers, and young professionals growing in their careers. Even as a new member, I am already one of The705's biggest fans. I have gained so much through my membership, from meeting awesome people to being connected with a Healthcare Executive mentor. I am excited about the opportunity to bring my passion and experiences to The705 and help develop young professionals into Acadiana's future community leaders!

Brittney Antoine

Dr. Brittney Antoine is a pain management specialist practicing acupuncture and Chinese medicine in Lafayette, Louisiana. Born and raised in New Iberia Louisiana, Dr. Antoine earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and received both her master's and doctoral degrees at the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in San Diego, California. After graduation, she became an apprentice of Dr. Donald Snow in Lake Charles, LA. she is the Clinical Director of Dr. Snow's 2nd clinic in Lafayette. She is particularly fascinated with the mind-body connection and tries to explore this in her practice of Chinese Medicine. She has a passion for spreading the word about the efficacy of acupuncture to her local community and advocates for Chinese Medicine as a low cost solution to the opioid epidemic in America and high occurrence of chronic pain. Her ultimate goal is to see the integration of medicine in America to include more natural modalities through building relationships with practitioners in the western medical community.

I know that I'd be a great fit for the board because I love bridging people together. I also believe that we can turn Lafayette into a more interesting city if the young professionals engage more and host more events. There is so much local talent in Acadiana throughout many different industries. It's a shame that a lot of this talent either chooses not to mingle because they feel there's nowhere to go, or they leave for more interesting cities. Organizations like The705 can help to combat these issues.



Carissa Hall



I am a Jane of all trades, my education is in jewelry manufacturing which I utilized in my time working with an Italian jewelry designer as well as A-Bryan's Jewelers. I've worked off and on in food and beverage for over 25 years in every position from hostess to general manager and catering sales. My food and beverage experience led me to Waitr where I created a new division called Waitr Cater for large-scale catering orders and discovered my love for solving problems with technology and UI/UX. After being laid off from Waitr

I was blessed to find a new and challenging position where I help businesses solve problems utilizing software, websites, and UI/UX. My hobbies are hiking, gemology, canoeing, fostering dogs, and camping. I believe I can help the 705 move forward by creating processes that use technology to save money and make day to day operations easier for our board members.



Elle Clements

I like to think of myself as Superwoman! I try to do it all! I am a mom to two amazing young boys who are three and one. I work full time at St. Pius Elementary school and absolutely love the work I do. I am very involved in my Church parish and the Mother's Ministry organization. I am also involved in several leadership positions with the Junior League of Lafayette. In my free time I enjoy reading and sleeping, I do binge watch Netflix while eating chips sometimes. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends on the weekends.

I feel that I would be a good candidate because I have a lot of experience from the positions that I have held in the Junior League of Lafayette. I am also very dedicated and organized which will make this position a passion of mine. I am outgoing and able to talk to anyone so I know that communication will not be an issue at all. I have lived in Lafayette for the majority of my life but I still feel that I am learning new things about this city everyday. As a board member I would be able to promote our Community while still being able to explore our city and learn more about its roots.

Emily Svendson

I've been a designer/project manager with IDI Workspaces since 2012. I'm studying for my third and final portion of the licensing exam that would qualify me as a nationally accredited Interior Designer. I recently purchased my first home in Lafayette and have enjoyed the 'newness' of home ownership! I like spending time with family and friends, traveling, running, working in my new yard, and cooking. I also enjoy spending time on our family farm in Catahoula.

I work well on a team but have no problem with stepping up to lead. I'm organized, can multitask, meet deadlines, and I am detail oriented. I have an employer who encourages me to get involved with our community, which allows me the flexibility to stay involved. I was taught and am proud to be a community member that gets the job done, not say 'well, that's not my job'. Because of The705, I have met so many active members and leaders in our community. It's because of them that I'm inspired to give more time to an organization that has taught me so much.



Fumy Rita



Born in Russia, raised in Portugal, my roots trace back to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. 2004 - B.A. in Modern Languages with minor in Microbiology 2017 - A.A. in Theology 2019 - B.A. in Christian Ministry 2011 - M.A. in Francophone Studies (French and Spanish) 2020 - M.S. in International Communication. I have worked as an intern for three summers at Lafayette Utilities System (2005, 2006, 2007), then as the Information and Translation Specialist at the International Trade Division of the Lafayette Consolidated Government, Le Centre International (2009 – 2010). I then worked for The Lemoine Company as the Craft Workforce Coordinator (2011 – 2013). Currently I work as an Instructor at South Louisiana Community College, SLCC (2013 – present), and Programs Coordinator for Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil and Gas Exposition, LAGCOE (2019 – present). I also have my business 9, LLC which specializes in international communication. I am a CrossFit lover and barely watch TV but occasionally will binge a comedy show or the ludicrous 90 Day Fiancé saga. I love animals, traveling, and reading. I am a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion. My #1 priority are Kelon, my son, and Arumi, my daughter.

To be honest, I don't know if I will be a good fit for the board. I time block my days and absolutely dislike lack of structure, organization, and process. Overall I dislike having my time wasted not progressing or accomplishing important goals. If The705 board is fully invested in its mission, progressing, and serving the community, I am a fit. Otherwise, this is just a popularity contest and I am not interested. My main objective to potentially join the board would be to dismantle the idea The705 is a clique; increase international and students membership/participation; bring more innovative ideas to the marketing team; and help implement new programs.

Jamie Hebert



Jamie Hebert (28), born and raised in Lafayette. Graduated from LSU in Communications and shortly thereafter moved to Atlanta to pursue a career in professional sports. I've worked for LSU Athletics, the Atlanta Falcons (don't judge), MLS' Atlanta United, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and now Moncus Park. As the Marketing and Events Director, I'm currently responsible for developing, promoting and implementing a variety of public events and programming for the community when we open in 2021. I'm a big dreamer and am passionate about building things from the ground up. I'm currently a member of Leadership Lafayette Class XXXIII, serve on the Keep Lafayette Beautiful Board and am a member of the Alumni Advisory Committee for my sorority at LSU, Pi Beta Phi. I'm a hard worker with a strong sense of integrity and a contagious smile. I love to travel - experiencing new places, people, and languages is something that rejuvenates me. A few fun, random facts about me: I love deep sea fishing. I'm a total foodie and love live music and dancing. I use emojis more than I should.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider my resume for the 705 board. I am a registered voter in City District 5/Parish District 5 and a proud member of the current Leadership Lafayette Class XXXIII. After moving to Atlanta pursue a career in professional sports, I'm proud to have returned home after five years to give back to the place that has given me so much. My desire to actively participate and make an impact in my community has grown exponentially ever since. As my resume will reflect, I have a great deal of experience in marketing, events and community outreach. Bringing people together and communicating is what I do best! I'm eagerly anticipating engaging individuals (and young professionals) across Acadiana to take greater responsibility in improving their community environment, whether through volunteering, civic engagement or arts and culture programming. I look forward to continuing to be an active member in our community and further serving fellow young professionals by serving on this board.

Jeremy “the Phantom” Anderson



Would a Rose by any other name smell so sweet. Words are cheap. Putting Board Member on my LinkedIn is even cheaper. But on the real, I want to be a part of young leadership and that entrepreneurial spirit in the LAF. Word.

Who is Jeremy Anderson? I’m just a man interested in philanthropy, social media, music, the betterment of man kind, the meek inheriting the Earth, pina coladas, getting caught in the rain, etc Swipe Right if you’re ready to put the special sauce on the burger, hon I came to 705 to do good deeds and not make a pageant out of it AND to chew bubble gum. I’m about out of Bubble gum

Jillian Dickerson



Wife, mother, and community advocate. I enjoy reading, shopping, drinking coffee/tea, and volunteering. My career background includes leadership, public relations, non-profits, and economic development. The705 is a passion of mine as a member, and during my time as a board member. As young professionals, we have a responsibility to our current community as well as our future residents to continue to grow and improve. The705 is an outlet that makes sure that happens.

The705 has been a part of my life for 8+ years. The opportunities and friendships The705 has introduced to my life are invaluable. I presently serve as Co-chair of the Philanthropy Committee, past Co-chair of the Programming Committee, and member of the 20 Under 40 Awards Committee. I would love to continue serving as a board member, to represent our membership, and to further our work in the community. It is important for Acadiana young professionals to serve as an example of our mission to connect, engage, and lead.

Logan Simpson

I was raised (just not born) in Farmerville, LA, a small town just south of the Louisiana/Arkansas border. I moved to Lafayette just over 3 years ago to pursue my career, and to try a scenery different than north Louisiana. I graduated from Louisiana Tech University, majoring in Computer Science with a concentration in Cyber Security. I moved to Lafayette after college to work my current job at CGI Federal where I currently work as a software developer. For fun, I like to spend as much time as possible away from my keyboard, which usually means I am outdoors or visiting friends. I like to go kayaking and I am trying to get back into camping, after a several year hiatus. I also spend a lot of time volunteering. Anything from the multiple festivals, pre-covid, to hurricane cleanup (2020 was rough). I believe that physical labor is a great way to get away from my desk and do some good.

The reason I would like to be considered for a position on a board of the705 is because it would give me to opportunity to help make a change and continue to develop myself to serve the community. Currently, I am involved with our corporate social responsibility committee at CGI, which is the group that coordinates volunteer efforts to serve the community. On that committee, I have learned what goes into organizing volunteer efforts, and I would like the opportunity to expand that more with the705, since we all want the same goal but have different ideas of how to achieve it due to a more diverse group of members.



Taylor Lormand



I am currently an Economic Development Specialist for St. Landry Parish Economic Development - you should know that economic development specialist is another word for juggler of all things, boots on the ground, champion of all causes, etc. I have been in this role since August 2019, prior to this, I worked managing asset and production data in the oil and gas industry. I am also "Mom" to my 5 year old son, Collin. I coach his soccer team and we travel as much as we possibly can. My hobbies include gardening, running, triathlons and my friends. I truly value my friendships; finding ways to enrich the lives of these people and our relationships is very important and fulfilling to me. What would humanity be without relationships and supporting each other? Being a single mom with a full time job, a side hustle (Literary Roots) while also being a U6 soccer coach is quite time consuming. When I have "down time" (hahahahahah!) I like to curl up on my couch with a good book or a movie and a glass of wine. I treasure my quiet time, it is absolutely necessary for me to maintain a healthy balance.

As I stated in my previous response, I believe that the value of humanity absolutely depends on the quality of our relationships with others and how well we are supported by and support our fellow humans. When I was going through my career transition in the Spring of 2019, the value of a strong professional network became more apparent to me than ever before. It was during this time that I was introduced to the 705 and subsequently, some of my strongest professional relationships come from 705 members. I have personally witnessed many friends experience incredible positive changes in their lives after finding a new career path usually through their own networks versus any job posting board. Should I be chosen as a member of the 705 Board of Directors, I would use my passion for building relationships and understanding of the value of a robust professional network to support the 705's mission. I do believe we have work to do in connecting Lafayette Parish young professionals to those in the surrounding parishes and I would be happy to champion such a cause. Who knows how many lives we can change by introducing others to such a fabulous group of professionals?!

Wendy Baudoin



I have worked in public service for more than a decade. I have worked at the Louisiana Department of Education as a Research Analyst, at the Lafayette Parish School System as a Data Specialist, and currently work for the Louisiana School Boards Association as a Board Development/Legislative Specialist. For a time, I operated my own data/consulting business. I was also recently became a licensed attorney in Louisiana. I am a lifelong learner holding a PhD and law degree. I am also passionate about public education and enjoy doing advocacy work in that field. I am also an active volunteer in the community. I currently am a 705 member and participate in the Philanthropy committee. For many years I have also served as a Lafayette Parish Election commissioner.

The pandemic and shift it caused in "normal" life has given me a lot of free time to pause and reflect. I have been thinking of a number of ideas and ways to invest in the community and being on the 705 board presents a great opportunity to act on those ideas. I have been an active members of the Philanthropy committee but am committed to taking a more active role in the organization as a whole. My professional and educational paths have required great discipline, steady commitment, and genuine collegiality. As a board member, I would apply those skills to my role on the board and to the service that comes with the position. I will be committed to good stewardship and fostering positive relationships with the board and the members. I know I can bring a wealth of professional experience and passion to the board. Also, after the tough times 2020 brought us, I really want to have some fun building on the 705 and serving our community together next year!