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SPRING 2014

EAGLE EXECUTIVE



City Campus Expands

In early November, Georgia Southern and City of Statesboro officials announced a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to create an innovative business incubator and Georgia's first digital fabrication laboratory at City Campus in downtown Statesboro.

"The new FabLab in Georgia is a part of the global FabLab network developed by Dr. Neil Gershenfeld at MIT," said Dr. Dominique Halaby, director of the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), "which offers 3D printing, electronic engineering simulation, and computerized scale modeling infrastructure."

With these cutting-edge technologies in the lab, entrepreneurs will be able to design and develop new products or services that can be licensed or patented and marketed.

The business incubator and City Campus offices will offer resources to create marketing and business plans and provide information and access to capitalization, either through loan applications or investors, as a way to turn new and innovative ideas, products, or services into viable businesses.

U.S. Representative John Barrow, whose office strongly supported the grant application during its year-long approval process, affirmed "this is a tremendous opportunity for small businesses seeking resources; Georgia Southern as a leader in business development; and the whole Southeast Georgia economy. I'm proud of the investment of the City of Statesboro, the University System of Georgia through Georgia Southern, and our federal EDA agency."

Statesboro Mayor Joe Brannen agreed, "Collaboration with Georgia Southern is important to the economic development of the region. In the competitive global economy today, we compete, not just with neighboring communities, but with the state, nation, and world."

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to enhance the economic development of our state," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel in making the announcement. "City Campus will attract entrepreneurs, serve as a magnet for new industry, and emerge as an economic driver."

The mission of City Campus, created in Fall 2010, establishing the College of Business Entrepreneurship Zone, BBRED, and the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership offices in downtown Statesboro, is to increase economic competitiveness through programs that lead to new and innovative products, new businesses, jobs, and economic prosperity. The expansion to City Campus has a total cost of almost \$2 million, including a \$780,000 City of Statesboro investment in additional real estate.

The new City Campus facility, joining the Entrepreneurship Zone in the adjacent building, now houses BBRED, Statesboro offices of the statewide Small Business Development Center network, and the university's Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, along with the new business incubator and digital fabrication lab.

The city has committed to join Georgia Southern in paying a portion of ongoing operation expenses, or overhead, at the facility going forward. ♦





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From the Desk of Dean Amason

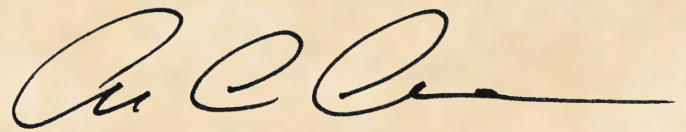
What is the value of a business degree? As dean of the Georgia Southern College of Business, I have often asked this question of others and myself.

For generations, it has been assumed a business degree is a sound investment that will pay back over and over again in the form of increased salary and opportunity. But, as the costs of a degree have risen and as the nature of our economy has changed, that assumption has been challenged. Indeed, a number of articles and editorials have recently appeared in leading business publications questioning the value of a business degree.

Let me say, first, that the question has a clear answer. The data still strongly support the proposition that education in general and higher education in business in particular is a good investment. Nevertheless, the trend is disturbing and should trigger some soul searching. What is the value of a business degree? And more to the point, what value is added by the Georgia Southern College of Business?

As dean, my job revolves around this issue. Are we opening doors for our students and addressing problems for the business community? Are we adding to the value of a Georgia Southern degree and strengthening the reputation of the Georgia Southern brand? Are we producing the things the market values, such that our degree is a sound investment? These are the things I think about every single day. And these are things that I would like each of you to think about.

What is the value of a business degree? It is reflected in the careers of our graduates, in the innovations of our faculty, in the ventures launched by our alumni, and in the economic impact of the jobs we all perform. Changes in the economy and questions in the press aside, I have no doubt that our College of Business is a good investment. And I promise that the faculty, the staff, and I are working relentlessly to get even better.



Dr. Allen C. Amason became the fifth dean of the College of Business Administration in August. He received his BBA in finance from Georgia Southern in 1984, his PhD in international strategic management from the University of South Carolina in 1993, and had been on the faculty at The University of Georgia since 1996.

Dr. Amason's teaching and consulting have focused on strategic management, strategic decision making, and top management team processes. He is an award-winning executive educator, having been named Terry College MBA Teacher of the Year in 2001, 2003, and 2005, and Terry College Teacher of the Year in 2006.

He previously served as professor of strategic management and chair of the Management Department, Terry College of Business, The University of Georgia, prior to joining the College of Business and Georgia Southern.

Dr. Amason is author of the textbook, *Strategic Management: From Theory to Practice*. He has published more than two dozen articles and chapters in the *Academy of Management Journal*, the *Journal of Management*, the *Journal of Management Studies*, and the *Journal of Business Venturing*, among other peer-reviewed publications. He is associate editor of the *Journal of Management Studies* and was previously senior associate editor of the *Journal of Management*, having served on the editorial boards of the *Academy of Management Journal*, the *Journal of Management*, and *Entrepreneurship, Theory & Practice*.



College News

Georgia Southern Recognized Among Nation's Best Online Graduate Business Programs



Georgia Southern University is home to some of the nation's best online education programs according to the "2014 Best Online Programs" list from *U.S. News & World Report*.

For the third consecutive year, the University was recognized for giving students the freedom and flexibility to help them earn degrees on their own time while balancing careers, families, and other commitments.

U.S. News surveyed nearly one thousand colleges and universities that offer online degrees. The Georgia Southern University College of Business Administration online graduate business programs were listed as some of the best in the nation.

The College of Business boasts several fully-online graduate business programs, which include the Online MBA, the WebMAcc, the Online MS in Applied Economics, and the ERP graduate certificate.

"Once again, Georgia Southern University is proud to be recognized for its top ranked programs," said Provost Dr. Jean Bartels. "Faculty in all programs are recognized for their dedicated efforts to create and administer the best of online education to students both in state and beyond. Broadening the reach of a Georgia Southern education has been a goal, now recognized, for the University."

The third annual survey examined a variety of areas including student engagement, student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, admissions selectivity, and peer reputation. The rankings cover online bachelor's degrees and online master's degrees in engineering, nursing, education, computer information technology, and business.

"Our College is relentlessly pushing to create greater quality and value for our graduates, alumni and business partners," said College of Business Dean Dr. Allen Amason. "This is the underlying value-added that rankings are meant to reflect. So, we are gratified to see our hard work appreciated and having the impact that we desire."

According to *U.S. News*, only degree-granting programs offering courses that are 100 percent online were considered for the rankings. ♦



Academic Advisor Graduates from the Eagle Leadership Program

The Eagle Leadership Program, an 11-month leadership course designed for faculty and staff and led by Human Resources, honored 21 new scholars at the capstone graduation recently. Stephanie Williams, College of Business Academic Advisor, was one of the members of the class.

The program began in 2009. Candidates are nominated by Georgia Southern's divisional vice presidents for their dedication, leadership skills, and potential professional growth.

"The Eagle Leadership Program is focused on developing leaders, creating an environment to promote University relations and collaboration among University leaders. As a College of Business staff member, I thoroughly enjoyed having College of Business faculty as our instructors. Through the program, I was able to make networking connections across campus and learn a variety of leadership skills and development. Some of the topics we discussed were employment law, improving communication skills, personality and leadership traits, and handling conflict/criticism. My favorite session was the President's Cabinet roundtable discussion. I was able to ask questions to our University leaders to get further insight on being in a leadership role and what it means to them. It meant a lot to be chosen as one of the 21 scholars of the 2013 Eagle Leadership Program. It was a great experience."

-Stephanie Williams,
College of Business

Congratulations, Stephanie!



Pictured from left to right: Kayela Wright, Wendy Warbington, Bree McChargue, and Megan Meyer.

Center for Retail Studies Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The College of Business Center for Retail Studies will celebrate its silver anniversary in 2014. Founded in 1989 by William “Bill” Bolen, professor of marketing emeritus, its mission remains the same:



1. To promote retailing careers by exposing students to industry executives who speak to students in classes and informal lunches; and, by taking students on field trips to see how retailers merchandise and interact with customers. Importantly, it lets students see that retailing is more than a boring hourly job of folding and refolding shirts so they look good on display tables. Retailing is a dynamic industry that cannot be outsourced and offers careers with significant advancement opportunities with high salaries.

2. To promote the importance of retail to the economy by showing its impact on employment. In the past, the Center has worked with the Governor’s Office to promote Georgia Retail Week in conjunction with the Georgia Retail Association. The Center has also worked with retailers across the State by conducting surveys to discover issues confronting the industry.

The Center’s focus on students goes beyond the classroom. Students are given the chance to go to both the Shop.org Annual Summit and the National Retail Federation’s (NRF) BIG SHOW in New York City. The Shop.org Summit is designed for digital retailers and the companies that serve them. It is an offshoot of the NRF. The retail center funded three students to attend the 2013 summit in Chicago this year. Paola Rodriguez, a marketing major, commented, “Chicago was a great opportunity for me because it gave me the chance to network with some of the most important retailers in the U.S. It was a very inspiring experience that made me realize how many people believe that retail is the future, and to also see how many career opportunities are out there for us in the retailing area.”

The Center for Retail Studies has entered into partnerships with various retailers, including Belk. These retailers have come to Georgia Southern because it offers them an educated and qualified workforce that understands retail and wants to work in the industry. Belk’s tie-ins with Georgia Southern include recruiting for paid internships, hiring for its executive training programs, sponsoring a Georgia Southern Day during which students, staff, faculty, and retirees receive special discounted prices on Belk merchandise, and, importantly, offering scholarships as well as stipends to allow students to travel to the BIG SHOW and Shop.org.



3 DAY STARTUP 3DS

Inaugural 3 Day Startup

I'd like to thank everyone who supported our first ever 3 Day Start-up Event at Georgia Southern. It was a very intense three days. The 40 selected students came from all but one college on campus and ranged from freshman to doctorate, in-person and online. These students started Friday with a brainstorming session, and by Sunday they had developed viable businesses, created websites, conducted market research, established financial projections, recorded instructional videos, and developed working prototypes. The six developed companies were

Go Local - *A mobile app that connects users to local events and venues based on their preset preference settings;*

Our Shelf - *A subscription-based e-book rental service for students, that could reduce the cost of textbooks by as much as 80 percent and provide students with lifetime access to the text and course notes;*

Sweater Weather - *A fashion related mobile app, that uses metatags, geolocation, and social media, to help a user put together outfits based on weather, what they have in their closet, colors, style, what's trending, etc.;*

Mac and Chaz - *A food truck for college students that has already garnered the interest of potential parking locations and customers, with their unique style and service;*

Cre8tiv - *Uses micro-transactions and an open source platform to enable users to develop a fully customizable website for as little as \$1;*

CustoMaze - *A new game that enables one player to construct a maze and another player to navigate the maze through the use of camera fitted robot controlled by their mobile device.*

This is just the beginning for these entrepreneurs, as all have approached us about working through our incubator to help bring their ideas to reality, and in helping to be apart of this annual tradition.

Also, after hearing the pitches, our panelists were asked to select one company to participate in this year's Creative Coast Fast Pitch Competition. I am happy to announce that our panelists selected Go Local to represent the group. This year's Fast Pitch will be held at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah on Friday, March 7th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Thanks again to our Selection Committee, our Mentors, our panelists, our sponsors, and to my team for all your hard work in helping make this event a successful one.

As always, thanks for all your help and support,

Dominique Halaby, Director

Interestingly, Belk's primary recruiter on campus is College of Business alumna Amanda Varnadore, who is indicative of what a hard working College of Business graduate can achieve in a short period. Amanda began her career with Belk as an executive trainee, followed by becoming a new store trainer. She then became a sales team manager but, soon after, was promoted to a division human resource manager and is now a division recruiting manager.

Amanda says, "As a student at Georgia Southern, I was given the foundation to begin my professional career and established lasting relationships that continue to positively impact my career today. As a recruiter, I am continually impressed with the quality of students at Georgia Southern and the commitment of the faculty and staff to ensure that students succeed in their chosen career paths."

The Center for Retail Studies reflects this commitment to student success by striving to develop tomorrow's leaders by stimulating interest in retail careers, preparing students for entry-level management, and by providing educational opportunities that go beyond the classroom.

If you are in the industry and need good people you, too, should get involved with the Center for Retail Studies. Contact Dr. Dora E. Bock, director, Center for Retail Studies at dbock@georgiasouthern.edu or 912.478.6975 for more information. ♦

Department News

Finance & Economics

In November, Greg Brock, along with Anna Alexander, Department of History, and Matthew Flynn, Center for International Studies, conducted a panel discussion, “The Good and Bad of NAFTA,” detailing the agreement’s successes and failures.



Dr. Brock has also been awarded a \$2,000 travel grant by Southern Federal University (SFU) in the southern Russian city of Rostov. SFU (sfedu.ru) was founded in 1915 and has 44,000 students. The grant will enable Dr. Brock to visit SFU in February of 2014 to create an applied economics regional research group that he will co-lead with the goal of mentoring young Russian economists and helping them publish in international journals. ◇

Dr. Barbara Price, professor emerita of quantitative analysis and interim associate vice president of continuing education at Georgia Southern, was recently named a 2013 fellow for ABET, the recognized accreditor for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. This annual award recognizes individuals who have provided sustained quality service to the ABET-related professions, in general, and education within the ABET disciplines. ◇



Information Systems

The Department of Information Systems hosted two TERP10 SAP® Student Certification Academies during Summer Semester: one in May and the second in early August. Twenty-six students passed the certification tests and earned globally recognized SAP® Business Associate certifications.

Camille Rogers was the instructor for the May Student Certification Academy, and Bob Szymanski taught the August class. Both Solomon-Edwards and Gulfstream hosted lunches for August the TERP10 participants so that they could share career opportunities with their organizations. Since its inception in December 2009, Georgia Southern has added nearly 150 certified individuals to the SAP® ecosystem—no other university in the South or Southeast comes anywhere close to matching this. The Department plans to become a SAP® University Education Partner; enabling Georgia Southern to significantly increase the range of SAP® certifications that it can make available to students. ◇

In June, Geoffrey Dick and Tom Case attended ERPSim faculty development workshops at HEC Montreal. Dr. Dick attended the Level 1 workshop, while Dr. Case attended Level 2. Dr. Dick has had an active fall semester making site visits, both foreign and domestic, as an evaluator of IS programs seeking ABET accreditation.

In October, Bob Szymanski and Camille Rogers represented the department at SAP’s annual TechEd conference in Las Vegas, NV. In May, Dr. Szymanski led a TERP10 Student Certification Academy for HEC Montreal, and, during summer semester he also taught the ERP course in Georgia State University’s managing information technology professional master’s degree program as well as multiple training classes for a SAP® Education partner organization. ◇

Adrian Gardiner is currently serving as president for the Southern Association for Information Systems (SAIS). Paige Rutner is the program chair for the SAIS 2014 Conference. Tom Case will fulfill his obligations as co-chair for Information Systems Education and Curriculum Track by traveling to Milan, Italy, to attend the 2013 International Conference on information systems. He is serving the Association for Information Systems (AIS) as a member of both its Executive Council and its Committee on Conferences. Dr. Case is also serving as conference co-chair for the 2014 Americas Conference for Information Systems (AMCIS) which will be held in Savannah in August 2014. ◇



Management

Misty L. Loughry and her colleagues received the 2013 Maryellen Weimer Scholarly Work on Teaching and Learning Award. This award, sponsored by Magna Publications, “recognizes outstanding scholarly contributions with the potential to advance college-level teaching and learning practices.” Articles published in any pedagogical journal from any discipline or a cross-disciplinary journal or higher education journal can be considered for the award. The award was presented at the Teaching Professor Conference in New Orleans on June 1, 2013, to Matthew W. Ohland, Misty L. Loughry, David J. Woehr, Lisa G. Bullard, Richard M. Felder, Cynthia J. Finelli, Richard A. Layton, Hal R. Pomeranz, and Douglas G. Schmucker for “The Comprehensive Assessment of Team Member Effectiveness: Development of a Behaviorally Anchored Rating Scale for Self and Peer Evaluation,” published in *Academy of Management Learning & Education* in December 2012. ♦

In July, Dr. Loughry was appointed to the editorial review board of *Academy of Management Learning & Education*. Dr. Loughry also attended the 2013 annual meeting of the Academy of Management in Orlando, FL, in August where she presented a paper, “Assessing Teamwork Skills for Assurance of Learning Using CATME Team Tools,” and was honored to receive the conference’s Outstanding Reviewer Award. ♦

Marketing & Logistics

Jacqueline K. Eastman won the Georgia WebMBA Ken Stanley Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award for her teaching in the Online MBA program. This is the fifth time she has won this award since coming to Georgia Southern in 2007. ♦

This semester, the Georgia Southern Logistics Association (GSLA) hosted 50 managers from 25 companies and 165 students for its Logistics Roundtable and networking event before the Eagle Expo, as well as hosting multiple speakers and events throughout the semester. The Georgia Southern Logistics Association, under the guidance of Drs. Monique Murfield and Chris Boone, hosted a number of highly successful events designed to provide students with opportunities to gain insights into careers in logistics. At the “Target on Leadership” event, five representatives from Target Corporation led discussions on a variety of topics including career preparation and leadership development. “Exel on Logistics” was a similar event during which representatives from Exel discussed the wide range of opportunities available to logistics students with one of the world’s largest logistics service providers. ♦

Kathleen Gruben hosted Target on February 5, Belk on February 12, and Toys “R” Us on February 19. In honor of Belk coming to campus, February 12 was named, “Belk Day.” Dr. Gruben opens her classroom for these companies to speak to her students and has developed these partnerships over the past ten years. ♦



Management Professor Wins Top Regents’ Award

Georgia Southern College of Business professor Misty Loughry, Ph.D., is among only five University System of Georgia (USG) faculty members selected to receive the System’s most prestigious teaching awards named in honor of the late Regent Felton Jenkins, Jr., the Regent’s Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award (SOTL).

Dr. Loughry has been at the University since 2007, and her selection as the sole winner was unanimous by the review committee. She was selected as a result of her work in helping first-generation college students succeed. Loughry’s research interests include using management research to enhance college teaching and student learning, peer evaluation of teamwork, and controls in organizations, particularly peer control.

“I am honored to receive the SoTL Award and happy for Dr. Delena Gatch, also from Georgia Southern University, who won the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award,” Loughry said. “My colleagues and I have been working for more than a decade to develop web-based tools to support teamwork in higher education classes. Information about the tools and the research on which they are based is posted on CATME.org. I am grateful to the Board of Regents for offering the Regents’ SoTL award to recognize research that contributes to teaching and learning.”

Dr. Loughry, along with the other winners, will be recognized during the USG Foundation’s annual “Regents’ Salute to Education” awards gala on March 22, 2014, at the World of Coke in Atlanta. ♦

School of Accountancy

The board of directors of the Institute of Management Accountants, Inc., IMA, an association of accountants and

financial professionals in business, recently announced Dr. Robert Marley, College of Business, and Dr. Lee Kersting, Northern Kentucky University, have received a research grant contract for their proposal "Fair and Balanced: An Examination of Relative Performance Information, Tournament Horizon, and Task Ability Stratification on Performance in an Effort-Based Production Task."

Dr. Raef Lawson, IMA's vice president of research, made the announcement in early summer and the research is now ongoing. The results are expected to help provide company managers with a new tool to boost employee performance. The c-suite report, summarizing the methodology, hypothesis, and expected outcome, has been presented and the final report is forthcoming at the June 21-25, 2014, annual meeting of the association in Minneapolis, MN. ♦



Don Berez, CPA, CFE, and former director of the Fraud Examination and Forensic Accounting Programs, is requiring his students to join the International Association of Interviewers (IAI) due to its highly valuable and educational web-based content. The IAI web content contains educational resources for those practicing the art of interviewing and interrogation. Resources include the rationalization matrix, interview mapping, podcasts, book reviews, blogs, and more.

Dr. Berez teaches "White Collar Crime" and "Forensic Interviews and Interrogation" courses in which his students use the text *Practical Aspects of Interviewing and Interrogation* by David Zulawski and Doug Wicklander of Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc. Dr. Berez decided to incorporate the innovative Wicklander-Zulawski method of interview and interrogation into his course work after recognizing its powerful application to fraud investigation.

"My experience in law enforcement training included a simple rule—find what works, then use it, and share it," said Dr. Berez, a retired FBI agent who spent 23 years investigating fraud before concluding his career as a polygraph examiner.

"I am greatly anticipating the next Elite Training Day event and my first IAI Advisory Board meeting," said Dr. Berez. "It will be great to get involved with IAI's practitioners, and I'm hoping to lead a training session for academia interested in developing courses for their own institutions."

Contact Dr. Berez for more information on the benefits of the IAI website and how he involves his students at berez@georgiasouthern.edu, or visit www.fraudforensicacct.com for more information about their programs.

Congratulations to the first group of students from Georgia Southern University to join IAI. ♦

CFE Students Host Doyle

Kevin R. Doyle, director of Protective Services, Georgia Ports Authority, spoke to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, student chapter in early



November. His presentation focused on implementation of security initiatives mandated by the federal departments of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration.

As director of Protective Services, he works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure the safety and security of one of the largest ports on the U.S. East Coast. He explained the importance of planning and execution in protecting employees, customers, stakeholders and the general public in an ever increasingly global environment.

Mr. Doyle joined the Georgia Ports Authority as general manager of Protective Services in 2005 following an extensive career in criminal justice. He began his career as a police officer investigating violent crimes, later joined The Home Depot as its Regional Loss Prevention manager, and later became Risk Manager for the City of Savannah.

Mr. Doyle received his BS in criminal justice from Armstrong Atlantic State University, an MS in public administration and criminal justice from Georgia Southern University, and an MS in homeland security from Breyer State University. He has held a professorship at Armstrong Atlantic State University for several years and teaches regularly. An avid golfer, Mr. Doyle, his wife, and three children reside in Savannah. ♦



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New Faculty Members



Kwabena Boakye

Assistant Professor of Quantitative Analysis
Management Department

Dr. Boakye comes to Georgia Southern from the University of North Texas. He holds a PhD from the University of North Texas, an MS from the University of Idaho, and a BSc from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana). An American Society for Quality certified Six Sigma Black Belt, Dr. Boakye's research interests include quality improvement, service innovation, and applied statistics. His works have appeared in *Operations Management Research*, *Quality Management Journal*, *International Journal of Bank Marketing*, as well as numerous conference proceedings. Dr. Boakye's hobbies include cooking and playing tennis.



Michael Cuellar

Assistant Professor of Information Systems
Information Systems Department

Dr. Cuellar, who holds a PhD and an MS from Georgia State University and a BSBA from the University of Central Florida, comes to the College of Business from North Carolina Central University, where he was lead faculty in computer information systems. He is the managing editor of the *Journal of the Southern Association for Information Systems* and a member of several journal editorial boards. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Cuellar spent 25 years with Electronic Data Systems, Computer Sciences Corporation, and Lockheed Space Systems. His research has been published in *European Journal of Information Systems* and the *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*.



Axel Grossman

Associate Professor of Finance
Finance & Economics Department

Dr. Grossman, who has earned his PhD and MBA from the University of Texas Pan American and his BS from the University of Applied Science (Germany), comes to Georgia Southern from Radford University with his wife, Florinda, and their two sons, Sebastian and Maximilian. His main teaching interests are corporate and international finance and investment. Dr. Grossman's scholarly work has been published in *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money*, *International Journal of Finance and Economics*, *Journal of Economics and Finance*, and *Journal of Asian Economics*.



Allissa Lee

Assistant Professor of Finance
Finance & Economics Department

Dr. Lee earned her PhD from Oklahoma State University as well as an MS in quantitative financial economics. She earned a BBA in finance and meetings and destination management from North-eastern State University. Prior to joining the College of Business, she was a visiting assistant professor of finance in the Spears School of Business at Oklahoma State University and the McCoy College of Business Administration at Texas State University-San Marcos. Dr. Lee has authored academic publications in journals such as the *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *Research in International Business and Finance*, and the *Journal of Financial Education*.



Rand W. Ressler

Chair

Finance & Economics Department

Dr. Ressler, PhD and BS, Auburn University, comes to Georgia Southern from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, where he taught for twenty years and received honors for academic research and advisement. Dr. Ressler has authored more than thirty peer-reviewed publications in academic journals such as *Economic Inquiry*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, *Review of Industrial Organization*, and *Public Choice*. His work has been frequently cited by scholars of applied microeconomics and referenced in U.S. Senate hearings.



Mary Beth Rousseau

Assistant Professor of Management

Management Department

Dr. Rousseau, PhD, University of Tennessee; MS, finance, Florida International University; and BA, marketing, Michigan State University, comes to Georgia Southern from the University of Tennessee, where she recently earned her PhD. Her industry background includes management roles in product development, technology commercialization, new ventures, and small business growth. Dr. Rousseau's primary research interests are technology and innovation management, strategic alliances, and entrepreneurship.



Steven Stewart

Assistant Professor of Management

Management Department

Dr. Stewart, PhD, Florida Atlantic University; MS, Southwestern Seminary; and BS, University of Florida, comes to Georgia Southern from Jupiter, FL, with his wife, Malini, and two children, Matt and Katie. He recently completed his PhD in management at Florida Atlantic University, where he taught entrepreneurship and global strategy. His primary area of research is individual and organizational identity, integrated with entrepreneurship, and he has conducted research integrating identity with areas of merger and acquisition integration, international context, leadership, and institutional theory. Prior to academia, Dr. Stewart spent 15 years in non-profit management.



Stanley Suboleski

Assistant Professor of Hospitality Management

Management Department

Dr. Suboleski, PhD and MS, University of Nevada, comes to Georgia Southern from the University of Nevada–Las Vegas, where he has been for eight years. His research focuses on service industry operations, multi-unit management, services marketing, and research methodologies analysis. A former director of sales for International Gaming Institute, Las Vegas, he has more than 20 years of hotel experience in executive and corporate management, including designing and opening hotels. He is a founding partner in the Internet marketing firm, EWD Solutions, and owner of Ivory Tower Treasures, a consultancy specializing in facility and operational redesign for hospitality venues.

Graduate Studies

MBA Update

The mission of the MBA Association (MBAA) is to enhance MBA students' experiences by providing an avenue for their academic and professional development.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the MBAA was revitalized. The first meeting, held on August 28 in the College of Business, was well attended by both students and faculty and served as a planning meeting for this organization that caters to MBA students.

The emphasis of the first MBAA meeting was to brainstorm exactly what MBA students wanted from their organization. The group of MBA students at the meeting decided to meet weekly, to include MBA Alumni who would like to get involved with the newly revitalized MBAA, and to adopt a Statesboro community project for fall semester, the Annual Statesboro 5K Turkey Trot.

During the semester, the Association hosted speakers Dr. Benjy Thompson, CEO of the Development Authority of Bulloch County, and Brad Denmark of C. H. Robinson. It



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MBAA

also held an MBA Career Services workshop and an MBA networking event in conjunction with the Eagle Career Expo.

The MBAA has already begun its Spring 2014 calendar, with a kick-off meeting that was held on February 5 at 5:15 PM in the College of Business Room 1104. At the spring kick-off meeting, Mandy Edwards of ME Marketing Services spoke to about 20 MBA students on social media and how to have a professional presence online. This is an exciting time in the MBA program. If you or your company is interested in being involved with the MBAA, please contact us at mba@georgia-southern.edu. ♦

PhD Faculty & Students SCOR[®] Certified

The Department of Management in the College of Business joined the Supply Chain Council in 2012 and has been certified eligible to offer Supply Chain Operations Reference (SCOR[®]) Scholar certifications for students.

Faculty members Mark Hanna, Jake Simons, Chung-Yean Chiang, and Jerry Burke and PhD students Amit Arora, Heather Monteiro, Willis Mwangola, Mertcan Tascioglu, Ha Ta, Cesar Ayala, and Dion Harnowo attended the two day seminar by Dr. Rocky Newman, Miami University, Oxford, OH, to become certified in the SCOR[®] model.

The Supply Chain Council (SCC) is a global, nonprofit organization whose methodology, framework, training, certification, and benchmarking assist member organizations to make rapid and sustainable improvements in supply chain performance.

Since 1996, SCC has implemented the SCOR[®] Framework in courses for supply chain professionals at more than 1,000 companies on six continents, with more than 90 percent excellence ratings from attendees and 80 percent word-of-mouth referral for new SCC business.

Supply chains can often be quite complex. Each line of business uses its own language to describe processes, practices, and job specifications. All need individual, specialized metrics. SCOR[®] is a reference framework that provides standardization for processes, metrics, practices, and skills.

The SCOR[®] Framework enables companies to analyze and improve their supply chains through framework variable benchmarking and to achieve professional SCOR[®] Certification via proficiency exams.

MSAE Program

The Master's of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE) program is a fully online, AACSB accredited program with asynchronous delivery. As such, it is one of only a handful of such programs in the country. The online aspect gives working professionals the opportunity to continue their education wherever they may be located.

Our students come from a diverse array of backgrounds including the financial sector, military service, and education. The editors of OnlineCollege.org chose Georgia Southern's MSAE program as the best online program in economics for faculty credentials, alumni engagement, and financial support. Despite past accolades and success, the MSAE faculty continue to look for ways to improve the quality of the program.

To that end, changes are planned for implementation in fall 2014 that will make the program more "student friendly." The most significant of these is eliminating the several two-course concentrations that essentially reduced past students' flexibility in scheduling. Incoming students will be given the ability to build a curriculum that better suits their interests and career goals.

Additionally, new courses are being designed to keep the program relevant in an ever-changing business environment.



Membership in SCC is open to companies and organizations. Corporate membership is available to private-sector companies with global presence. Research membership is available to nonprofit, academic, and government organizations. ♦

The first new course to be offered is ECON 7131 Health Economics, which is scheduled to be taught in the Fall 2014 semester. In this course, students will learn about health-care market imperfections and the role of physicians, hospitals, insurers, and the government in providing essential health services.

For students interested in attaining 18 hours of graduate coursework required by SACS for teaching at the undergraduate level, the Department of Finance and Economics also offers a graduate certificate program. In this program, students complete the core courses from the MSAE program and then choose the MSAE electives that best meet their teaching needs and interests. They receive a graduate certificate upon completion of the 18-hour program or can choose to continue on in the Master's program.

For more information on the master's degree or the Graduate Certificate, please go to coba.georgiasouthern.edu/dfe/graduate/. ♦

MAcc Program

The MAcc and Forensic MAcc prepare our students for careers in accounting, and the program is attracting students from around the world. Approximately ten percent of our current students are international, and another ten percent come from outside the State of Georgia. While Georgia Southern undergrads represent the majority of our students, a number of students from other schools in the University System of Georgia are also in the program.

Our students are getting great jobs, and our work to improve our CPA Exam pass rates has paid dividends over the last several years. More of our students are taking and passing the CPA Exam while they are on campus in Statesboro, making our students more competitive in the job market and bringing in new firms to recruit on campus. Our alumni continue to come back to campus to recruit a new generation of Eagle Accountants!

The WebMAcc continues to grow with 26 students currently enrolled. As word of the program gets around, phone calls and emails are pouring in, often from people looking to make a career change. The need to take prerequisites before entering the WebMAcc has delayed their enrollment, but we continue to see growth. ♦

TAILGATES



With our exit from the Southern Conference and FCS Division in the fall, College of Business students, alumni, faculty, and staff exhibited the true meaning of “True Blue” during the 2013 football season.



The College hosted tailgates at the final Southern Conference home games, where alumni and faculty reconnected, new friendships developed, and a framed, signed and numbered print of “The Real Thing” by Steven Hein was auctioned off to the highest bidder, Jan Grimes.



The newly revitalized MBA Association (MBAA) also hosted a corn hole tournament during the Homecoming tailgate. Make plans now to join the fun as we cheer the Eagles on to victory in 2014 in the Sun Belt Conference. Tailgates begin two hours prior to kick-off.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The Georgia Southern Eagles football team wrapped up its season with a monumental win over the University of Florida Gators in “The Swamp” on November 23, 2013. This was the first win against an FBS or BCS team in Georgia Southern football history. Georgia Southern, now 10-0 in games when not completing a pass, ran for 429 yards with a 7.9 per attempt average against the Gators.

The Eagle defense held Florida to only 279 yards of total offense, its lowest total since a 2002 game against LSU. National media outlets broke into other games with upset alerts to inform football fans coast-to-coast that Georgia Southern was about to stun Florida in “The Swamp” on that victorious Saturday. Georgia Southern finished its season at 7-4. The Eagles open the season on August 30, 2014, against NC State in Raleigh as a member of the Sun Belt Conference.



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Homecoming 2013



This theme was chosen to show spirit for Georgia Southern University, while encouraging festive celebration of our university. The University Programming Board planned a week of fun events for all students, staff, and faculty. Each year, students vote to choose their Homecoming Royalty. This year the winners were King Zac Watson, Queen Annalee Ashley, Duke Errol Anthony-Spence Sutherland, and Duchess Ellen Bates Hogan.

Annalee Ashley, Homecoming Queen, is a senior marketing student in the College of Business and will graduate in May 2014. On being named Homecoming Queen, Annalee says, "The honor of being homecoming queen has allowed for many opportunities to represent Georgia Southern in a positive way. For example, this semester I will be visiting the Boys and Girls Club to spend time with local children on behalf of the University. I have also been able to network with administration, staff, and other students through representation at events such as the Lighting of Sweetheart Circle and the Lantern Walk. I consider myself humbled to be chosen by my peers to represent Georgia Southern as a face for scholarship, campus and community involvement, and social excellence through this University."





GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES RECEIVE DEGREES DURING FALL COMMENCEMENT

Georgia Southern University held its 22nd annual fall commencement during which University president Dr. Brooks A. Keel conferred degrees to nearly 1,600 graduate and undergraduate students at Hanner Fieldhouse. Of those 1,600 graduate and undergraduate students, 166 were College of Business undergraduate students and 58 were College of Business graduate students.

“This is an exciting day in the Eagle Nation as we recognize the hard work and academic achievements of our newest graduates,” said Keel. “As the 12th President of the greatest University in America, I am proud to extend my congratulations to these hardworking men and women as they embark upon a new journey in their lives.”

This year’s Commencement speaker for the 11:00 AM College of Business Administration ceremony was Willis North America’s Executive Vice President, Jack Jennings. Jennings, who called himself a “Georgia Southern parent three times over,” encouraged graduates to believe the best is still ahead of them, noting, “Never peak. Never believe you’ve arrived. Those who believe the best is ahead are at the front of the pack.” ♦



Save the Date

April

2 nd	IS Honors Day, 10:30 AM, Bishop Alumni Center
5 th	College of Business Honor Luncheon
9 th	Entrepreneurship Lecture Series: Hannah Davis, CEO, BANGS Shoes
30 th	Accounting Day

May

9 th	Graduate Brunch, 10:00-11:30 AM Commencement for Graduate Students, 1:00 PM, Hanner Fieldhouse
10 th	Commencement for Undergraduate Students, 9:00 AM, Paulson Stadium
23 rd	21 st Annual College of Business Golf Tournament, Forest Heights

Get Ready!



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**21ST ANNUAL
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**FRIDAY,
MAY 23, 2014**

RSVP by April 10

Contact Lisa Williams for
Sponsorship Information at
lwms@georgiasouthern.edu

Alumni in the Spotlight

From the Alumni Ambassador

Change is the one thing that is always with us—somewhere. A new era in the College of Business alumni communications is here with a magazine format like the ones that I get from all of my former universities. The *Eagle Executive*, my baby, started in 1979 as “The Update,” a one page Xerox product that I started as a hobby after I became the Small Business Development Center director in August 1978.

The main purpose from the beginning has been to publicize the business school and what was happening on campus and to showcase our alumni and their career successes. The new Class Notes section, formerly Alumniville, is the way to show how good our alumni are.

It is always great to see former students. A number joined us at the College of Business tailgates last fall. One I had not seen in more than 25 years, Jim V from Brunswick. Some have sent emails, etc., to see if I was still around. Thanks for your kind words... As always, keep those blue cards coming in.



Lewis M. Stewart

Lewis Stewart
Alumni Ambassador

Evolution of the College and Eagle Executive



Georgia Southern
Founded
1906



First
“The Update”
1979



New Building
Opens
1995



Eagle Executive
Magazine
2014

1966
School of
Business



1977
AACSB
Accreditation

1986
Eagle Executive
Newspaper



2001
Online
MBA



Awbrey McBride

Awbrey McBride (MKT, 2001), opened Two Cutie Patooties in Savannah, in the hopes of carrying on the tradition of personalizing items. Awbrey also wanted to incorporate the importance of family since she has two small children of her own. She hoped to have her own business so she could have flexible hours in order to spend time with her children before time flew by.

Opening up her own monogramming business did not start off as well as she had hoped. Awbrey said her profit was constantly going back to the company, and she spent a little over a year not taking in a paycheck of her own. Thankfully, Awbrey's mentor from Georgia Southern, Dr. Kathleen Gruben, professor of marketing, was able to help her move forward with her business. Dr. Gruben asked Awbrey to come speak to her students, and the students asked to help with her business and explain how she could make it grow. The students told her about social media like Twitter and Facebook. Awbrey opened up an account on each of the social media websites, and she said orders began to flow in.



Awbrey took the opportunity to speak to younger students and allowed them to help her move forward with her business. Now, she has relocated three times in the past two years because of the growth due to the help from her mentor and Georgia Southern students. Awbrey says her success is from her education at Georgia Southern and her time spent with Dr. Gruben. Awbrey is able to carry on the tradition of personalizing items that is becoming more and more popular and also hold onto the importance of family to her and her employees. ♦

R. Bryan Ginn, Jr.

R. Bryan Ginn, Jr. (GEN BUS, 1987) was recently named chief campus officer at Georgia Campus–Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM), Suwanee. Bryan provides administrative oversight of Georgia Campus, which was established in 2005 and offers professional degrees including doctorates in osteopathic medicine and pharmacy, masters in biomedical sciences and organization, development, and leadership. Bryan is the liaison to the institution's president and senior leadership team in Philadelphia and manages external outreach to local, state, and federal government officials and the community. He is responsible for leading campus expansion and adding additional health science academic programs.

Prior to joining GA-PCOM, Bryan served in multiple leadership and president's cabinet-level roles at Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) in Augusta (now Georgia Regents University, home of the Medical College of Georgia (MCG)) including vice president of advancement, vice president of external affairs, and interim chief of staff to the GHSU president/CEO and chair of the board, MCG Health System, Inc. Previously, Bryan served in advancement and external affairs roles at Kennesaw State and Georgia Southern.



Early in his career, Bryan served on the staffs of U.S. Representative Lindsay Thomas and U.S. Senator Wyche Fowler, Jr. Bryan is a member of the board of directors for the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. He is professionally associated with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the Georgia Education Advancement Council, and other professional and civic organizations.

Bryan and his wife, Caroline (BSEd, 1988), are the co-owners of The Ivy Boutique, a women's clothing and gift retail establishment in Evans, GA. Their son, Bo, graduated from the College of Business in December with a degree in management and intermodal transportation and a minor in information technology. Their daughter, Carson, is now a Georgia Southern freshman. The Ginns reside in both Gwinnett and Columbia Counties. ♦

Class Notes

Accounting

Barry L. Brown (1968), Warner Robins, is a retired Lt. Col. from Air Force Reserve and in civil service as chief of Budget and Requirement Branch after 34 ½ years. He is married to Carol A. Brown, a 1969 Ga. Southern education graduate. Email: barrych@cox.net.

Kimberly Shuman Blocker (1983), Ellabell, is a VP for Black Creek Enterprises and partner on PK & D Ventures and 3-D Property Development. She is married to David S. Blocker and has two children and one granddaughter. Email: ksbloker614@yahoo.com.

Karl F. Schumacher (1983), Savannah, is the owner of Karl Shumacher, CPA and CFO for Paula Deen Enterprises. He is married to Sheryl Denmark. Email: schumachercpa@aol.com.

Bill Salinski (1984), Peachtree City, is a retired IRS special agent and is now a licensed private investigator. His wife is Leslie. Email: bsalinski@gmail.com.

Lorine Goodwin Loder (1985), Copper Canyon, TX, is now the director of financial planning for Frito Lay, Plano, TX. She is married to Mark Loder. Email: lorine_loder@pepsico.com.

Debbie Poppell Spallino (1986), CPA, Crowley, LA, is now the VP and CFO for the Bank of Commerce. She is married to Shane Spallino. Email: dspallino@bankofcommerceandtrust.com.

Debbie S. Wasdin (1989), Jesup, is the owner/CPA of Accounting & Tax Solutions, Inc. She is married to Howard E. Wasdin, best-selling author from *Seal Team VI, Memoirs of an Elite Navy Seal Sniper*. They will have a Christian non-fiction book to be released in 2014. Email: dwasdinpcpa@bellsouth.net.

Sherri Motes Dollar (1991), Metter, is now the owner of H & R Block. She is married to Robert J. Dollar. Email: sherridollar@gmail.com.

Debbie Wong Morris (1993; 2006 MBA), Canton, is now vice president—business analytics for Citibank NA, Atlanta. She is married to Marshall Morris, Jr., a 1998 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: dandrea_@hotmail.com.

Lyne J. Deal (1995), Statesboro, has retired from Georgia Southern after 17 years. She is married to Robert D. Deal, a 1973 Georgia Southern accounting graduate. Email: cjdeal@hotmail.com.

Alyssa L. Belcher (1998; 2003 MBA), Tampa, FL, is the controller for Blue Grace Logistics, LLC, Riverview, FL. Email: alyssalbelcher@gmail.com.

Jessica Lorenzen Wade (1998; 2004 MAcc) is now the senior accounting coordinator for the Savannah Board of Education. She is married to Lee Wade. Email: lorenzen21@comcast.net.

Jennifer Denmark Schrepel (2005), Milton, is now the senior analyst/AVP for the State Bank and Trust, Atlanta. She is married to Eric Schrepel, a 2004 Georgia Southern logistics graduate and they have a two year old daughter, Harper. Email: Jennifer.schrepel@gmail.com.

Leah Bendig (2007), Duluth, is a manager/CPA with Windham Brannon, Atlanta.

R. Kyle Donaldson (2007; 2013 MAcc), Statesboro, is now the CFO/CPA for Stubbs Oil Company. He is married to Eleasha Creamer, a 2009 Ga. Southern graduate. Email: r_k_donaldson@hotmail.com.

Katherine Ragans Bryan, (2008), Atlanta, is a senior acct/auditor with Nichols, Cauley & Assoc. She is married to Wheeler Bryan, Jr. Email: kabrick86@gmail.com.

Lee A. Sellinger (2010; 2011 MAcc), Pooler, is a CPA/staff accountant with Webster Rogers, LLP, Blufton, SC. He is married to Erin Winter, a 2011 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate. Email: lsellin1@georgiasouthern.edu.

Laurann E. Osborne (2011), formerly in Clarkston, is now in Columbus, OH, where she is a post repossession specialist for BMW Financial Services, Hilland, OH. Email: leolaurann@aol.com.

Rebekah Sarah Potter (2011; 2011 Spanish), Pooler, is a staff accountant with Samuel T. Jackson, CPA, Savannah. She is married to Francisco Martin. Email: sarahpotter473@hotmail.com.

Robert H. Webb, III (2011), formerly in Augusta, is now in Atlanta, where he is a staff accountant for Mauldin & Jenkins, CPAs. Email: rwebb@mjcpa.com.

Economics

Ulrich Ebensperger (2002), formerly in Germany, is now in Bois Colombes, France. He is married to Charlotte Bruneteaux, and they have a son, Rafael. Uli and Charlotte were on the Georgia Southern tennis team. Email: uliebensperger@hotmail.com.

Finance

Ann Adams Cromley (1983), Brooklet, is a CPA and CITP with Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, CPAs, Statesboro. She is married to Lee Cromley.

Anissa Reid Bowers (1991), O'Fallon, IL, is a retired executive officer in the U. S. Air Force. Her husband is James. Email: anissa.bowers@us.af.mil.

Yvette Humphries (1992), Atlanta, is now a business development officer for the PNC Bank. Email: yvett Humphries@aol.com.

Evan MacClellan (1994), Palatka, FL, is now the risk control consultant for the Florida League of Cities. Email: evmacc@yahoo.com.

L. Scott Thigpen (1997), Newnan, is now the director—restaurant development for Chick-fil-A, Atlanta. His wife, Jennifer, is a 1997 Georgia Southern graduate, and they have three children—Grant (8), Callie (5), and Caroline (8 months). Email: scott.thigpen@chick-fil-a.com.

Jamie C. Atkinson (1999), formerly in Savannah, is now in Monroe, where he is a business ed and science teacher for the Morgan County BOE. His wife is Lisa. Email: jamieatkinson1227@gmail.com.

Danny M. Creasy (2000), Midway, is now a V.P. and Hinesville branch manager for The Coastal Bank.

Martin A. Cunningham, Jr. (2002; MBA 2004), formerly in Marietta, is now in Woodstock, where he is the affluent client segment leader for Wells Fargo, Atlanta. A ten-year team manager, he has held various roles including senior licensed financial specialist and district manager. Martin is engaged to Robin Thrisk, a 2002 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate. Email: mcunnin1@hotmail.com.

Jack H. Green, Jr. (2004), Savannah, is a financial representative with Northwest Mutual Finance Network. He is now a chartered life underwriter. Email: jack.green@nmfn.com.

Amanda Arbucci Hrovat (2004), Warner Robins, is a claim representative with the Social Security Administration, Macon. She is married to Scott J. Hrovat. Email: amandaleearbucci@hotmail.com.

Evan Lassiter (2006), Atlanta, is now an account manager for TEKsystems. Email: elassite@teksystems.com.

Mike J. Smith (2006), Okinawa, Japan, is a KC-130 pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is married to Minori Miyagi. Email: smithmj97@yahoo.com.

Justin K. Lanier (2008), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Atlanta, where he is an underwriter for the Foundations Financial Group. He is engaged to Stephanie L. Rohr, a 2005 Georgia Southern College of Education graduate. Email: tinkerlanier@yahoo.com.

J.D. Dempsey (2011), Garfield, is now the operations manager for the Coastal Logistics Group, Savannah.

Logistics

Laura Allen Wittig (1992), Bel Air, MD, is the training and workforce developer for the Dept. of the Army.

Brandon T. Sauers (2008), Thunderbolt, a transport sales representative with C.H. Robinson Worldwide, is engaged to Caroline D. Shealy, a Ga. Southern graduate in nursing.

Joshua R. James (2009), Statesboro, an assistant manager with the Georgia Ports Authority, is engaged to Ashleigh G. Clark, a 2012 Ga. Southern nursing graduate. An April 12, 2014 wedding is planned.

Brett Croy (2012), Richmond Hill, is now a logistics coordinator for Coastal Logistics Group, Savannah.

Management

John B. Richardson (1986), Jacksonville, FL, is now president of the Newmark Grubb Phoenix Realty Group. John was a big part of our first two national championship football teams.

Curtis J. Tumlin, II (1993), Nahunta, is now a regional vice president of the Heritage Bank, Blackshear. His wife is Roxie.

Christine Carlson Lynch (1994), formerly in Leesburg, is now in Beaufort, SC, where she is a nurse. She is married to Christopher C. Lynch, a 1994 Georgia Southern logistics graduate. Email: lynch5vsmc@yahoo.com.

1st Lt. Jeff Jennings (2007), Copperas Cove, TX, is now aide-de-camp to the deputy commanding general-U.S. Army-Ft. Hood, TX. He is married to Amber Ledbetter, a 2009 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. They welcomed their first child, Wyatt Hunter, on Dec. 3, 2013.

Bucky Lewis Hendrix (2011), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Oak Harbor, WA, where he is in the U.S. Navy. He recently married Ashley Lynn Wick, a University of Kentucky alumna, also in the U.S. Navy.

Jason R. Thomas (2012), Waycross, a supervisor for Flash Foods, recently married Lindsey A. Engram, a Georgia Southern College of Education graduate.

Marketing

Johnell "Jay" Smith (1972), Miami, FL, is a super sales person. He also has a famous daughter, Chef Josie from Top Chef. His wife is Martha Vizcaino. Email: traveler-9mm@hotmail.com.

Prince H. Preston (1986), Statesboro, is now the sales and marketing manager for Bulloch Marine.

Susan C. Dailey (1988), Savannah, is now the director of marketing for Lanier Realty.

David Biscan (1990), Cumming, formerly with PepsiCo has established a consulting firm, Biscan Consulting. Email: biscan_david@yahoo.com.

Kevin Neal Kicklighter (1993; Kappa Alpha), Charlotte, NC, is now a territory manager for EcoLab, Charlotte, NC. Email: kevin.kicklighter@ecolab.com.

Gina Parrish (1998), Duluth, senior quantitative research consultant with TNS of Atlanta, recently married Mark Henderson, a North Carolina State graduate. Email: gina_parrish@hotmail.com.

MBA

Ian Winchester (2003), formerly in Auckland, NZ, is now in Atlanta, where he is America's credit restructuring manager for IBM. Email: ignwinch@us.ibm.com.

Justin John Gillette (2012; ACCT, 2011; Beta Gamma Sigma & Delta Alpha Psi), Atlanta, is a tax staff member at Smith & Howard, Atlanta. Email: Justin.j.gillette@gmail.com.

MAcc

Ashley C. Durrence (2005), Reidsville, is now the COO for the Lamar Smith Signature Group, Richmond Hill. He is married to Tina Clements, a Georgia Southern College of Education graduate. Email: adurrence@lamarsmithsignature.com.

Blake Wilson (2006), formerly in Metter, is now in Conyers, where he is the accounting manager for multiple construction companies. Email: jbw@aol.com.

Phylicia R. Brown (2008), Mableton, is the financial controls analyst/CPA for The Home Depot, Atlanta. Email: phyliciabrown08@gmail.com.

Natalie L. Hall (2008), Fitzgerald, is a senior accountant/CPA with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, Tifton. Email: nhall@cricpa.com

Jessica S. Webb (2008), Columbus, is a senior accountant/CPA for Taylor, CPA & Assoc. Email: jwebb85@hotmail.com.

Jessica Grundner (2009), Marietta, is the financial manager/CPA for Brown Bag Marketing. Email: Jessica.grundner@gmail.com.

Lesley Culbreth McDaniel (2009), formerly in Valdosta, is now in Lakewood, CO, where she is a CPA/tax accountant with Rubin Brown, LLP, Denver CO. She is married to Radly McDaniel, a 2006 Georgia Southern nursing graduate.

Kate Freeman (2011), formerly in Sylvania, is now in Savannah, where she is an accountant with Hancock Askew & Co. Email: kfreeman@hancockaskew.com.

John B. Wolters (2011; 2007 music), Norcross, is now a CPA with Verner & Associates, CPAs, Atlanta. Email: jwolters@vernercpa.com.

In Memoriam

Charles H. (Mike) Parker, III (GEN BUS, 1969), Savannah, died June 20, 2013.

Francis C. Long (ACCT, 1972; MBA, 1974), CPA, Harlem, died July 17, 2013. He taught accounting at Georgia Southern for several years.

Warren Thomas (FIN, 1990), Marietta, died December 7, 2012.

Randall Glenn "Randy" Harden (MKT 1990), Statesboro, died Nov. 9, 2013.

Jeffrey D. West (MGT, 1994), Ocoee, TN, died September 11, 2012.

Brian Thomas Lanier (LOG, 2007), Savannah, died February 4, 2014.

Development News

A Message from Gordon Hunter

Meetings, research, introductions, and learning the landscape of the Georgia Southern University College of Business would describe my first weeks as the assistant director of development.

Dean Amason has tasked me with developing an affinity group for each major within the College of Business, the purpose being to reconnect alumni. These groups will organize reunions/events, mentor current students, and provide a network of Georgia Southern professionals. My hope is the groups will focus on providing Georgia Southern College of Business students the chance to be mentored by an alum in the field they have chosen to study while in college.

The secondary purpose of these affinity groups are to educate alumni why it is important to give back to the College. These groups will keep alumni informed about what great things our College is doing. The members will be involved and incorporated to better understand the importance of investing in the College of Business.

I have also been tasked with starting a student affinity group for the College of Business. This group will be dedicated to educating students about what they can do at Georgia Southern to make themselves more attractive to employers.

This effort is such an important part of college, but it is too often overlooked. So many students start this process after they graduate and miss the opportunities that are presented on campus. Members of this student affinity group will be required to develop a polished résumé, train for the interview process, attend career fairs, and build a network that will help them find a career, not just a job.

EAGLE CONNECT

Join alumni and friends on the Online Community!

- Search for classmates
- Update your contact information
- Get involved with your local Alumni Network
- Volunteer for Eagle Outreach
- Register for events
- Receive e-news
- Social network with friends & classmates

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Alumni



Georgia Southern University
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

The student affinity group will also have an advisory committee whose first task will be to name the organization. They will serve as a sounding board for the dean and organize all of the events hosted by the affinity group. The advisory committee will consist of undergraduate and graduate students from every discipline in the college. Committee members will be appointed by the chairs and faculty of the department.

As with the alumni affinity groups, the student organization will educate College of Business students on why it is important to give back to Georgia Southern. The members will see firsthand how money and time donated by alumni are used to better the educational opportunities offered to Georgia Southern students.

I have truly enjoyed my first few weeks on the job. Every day is different, and I look forward to the challenges ahead. Erk said it best, "You just can't beat Georgia Southern. And you ain't seen nothin' yet!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Hunter".

Gordon Hunter, Assistant Director of Development

From the Development Nest

A Message from Pam Jones

What a great time to be a College of Business Eagle! Over the past several months, Dean Amason and I have been on the road connecting with our alumni in Savannah, Atlanta, Augusta, Washington, DC, and most recently Los Angeles.

We are blessed to have many outstanding and successful alums living all over the country. They help confirm the point that greatness can be born in small town America, including the South! They also prove that the College of Business at Georgia Southern University provides students with a firm foundation to launch graduates into careers that can make a difference in the world.

Dean Amason has plans to move the College of Business into a more competitive position with other universities. Although most people don't like change, we all know that it's necessary to stay current and relevant, and to attract the brightest and best students possible. Naturally, this is going to require flexibility from the faculty and staff. At the same time, we will have to generate capital to fund these initiatives.

The building that we are in was built in 1994-1995. At that time, many of you stepped up to the plate and donated money to furnish the classrooms, labs, and offices. We thank you for that! However, just like your homes, there comes a time to renovate. We have reached that time with the College of Business building. In the coming months, you will hear details about what's needed. This will include building our endowment and scholarships to a competitive level. There are many things, in addition to donating money, you can do to support us on this journey, so I hope you'll take the time to meet with me and let me tell you more about it.

These are exciting times at the College of Business! I'm delighted to be part of Dean Amason's team, and I hope you'll want to join us, too.



Pam Jones, Senior Director of Development



Pictured from left to right: Pam Jones, Gordon Hunter, and Debbie Hilton

The Development Team

The College of Business recently established a new Office of Development & Alumni Relations. This new Office will handle fundraising initiatives, alumni relations, and special events. The Office is staffed by Pam Jones, senior director of development; Gordon Hunter, assistant director of development; and Debbie Hilton, administrative secretary.

Pam Jones, senior director of development, comes to the College of Business after serving as the director of outreach development for the Georgia Southern Outreach Centers—the Museum, the Garden of the Coastal Plain, the Performing Arts Center, the Wildlife Center, and the Military Resource Center—as well as (formerly supporting) the College of Education and the Zach S. Henderson Library.

Gordon Hunter, assistant director of development, joins the College of Business after having served as director of athletic marketing at Georgia Southern. Gordon was responsible for scheduling all promotions, media buys, and marketing for the 16 NCAA Georgia Southern sports teams. In the College of Business, Gordon will focus on alumni relations.

Debbie Hilton, administrative secretary, joined the College of Business in 2011. As administrative secretary, Debbie brings her knowledge and background in administration and in charitable giving to the Office of Development. Prior to her position within the Office of Development, Debbie served the College of Business as event coordinator, where she received the College of Business STAR Award.

Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol

A group of faculty, students, and administrators visited the Capitol on the morning of February 6, for the first ever Georgia Southern Day. Our purpose was to thank the legislature, the Governor, and the staff for their support of Georgia Southern. It was also an opportunity to showcase some of our programs, students, and research. The College of Business was represented by Dean Amason (seen here with Gus), and by Ms. Pam Jones, from our Development Office.



Thank You 2013 Eagle Executive Society Members!

The Eagle Executive Society is an annual membership society of College of Business alumni and friends. The fifty dollar annual membership investment supports educational activities beyond the classroom, including travel scholarships, student engagement, and research activities to ensure the best technology, facilities, and learning opportunities are available for today's students. Members receive an Eagle Executive Society stock certificate, recognition in the *Eagle Executive*, and invitations to special events sponsored by the College.

Memberships are accepted online at <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu>, or telephone to Debbie Hilton, 912.478.5050. Active members, including charter, renewed, and new, are acknowledged below. We appreciate your support.

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