The Board of Directors of AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business recently ratified its accreditation coordinating and maintenance committee’s early Fall 2007 recommendation to continue accreditation of the undergraduate (BBA), graduate (MBA and WebMBA), and accountancy (SOA including MACc) programs offered in the College of Business Administration for the next five years. The reaccreditation announcement, released by Judy Ollan, AACSB International board chair, is a culmination of years of hard work by COBA administrators, faculty, and staff. First accredited in 1977, COBA has maintained its AACSB accreditation for more than 30 years. While 555 AACSB International member institutions around the world have been affirmed in their commitment to quality and continuous improvement through rigorous, comprehensive peer review, only 160 have achieved additional accreditation for their accounting programs.

AACSB accreditation means COBA’s business programs have met or exceeded the highest operating standards, as defined by the independent agency, AACSB International, for delivering bachelor and master degrees in business. “It takes a great deal of commitment and determination to earn AACSB accreditation,” said Jerry Trapnell, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. “These schools have met rigorous standards of excellence, as well as made a commitment to ongoing improvement that ensures that they will deliver a high quality education to students.” Having the stamp of approval from AACSB provides assurance COBA’s curricula is contemporary and comprehensive; the faculty is current and qualified in their teaching fields; policies, procedures, and processes are in place and functioning to ensure quality; facilities and instructional resources are up-to-date; and the portfolio of intellectual contributions is extensive and diversified. In short, it affirms COBA delivers quality education on a level higher than non-AACSB accredited schools of business.

AACSB International was founded in 1916 and began its accreditation function in 1919. As a specialized agency, AACSB International grants accreditation, representing the highest standard of achievement, for undergraduate and graduate business administration and accounting programs worldwide. AACSB International accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business and management education.

In addition to establishing and maintaining standards of quality for collegiate education, AACSB provides services to and represents the interests of its members. AACSB International accreditation assures stakeholders that business schools, including the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern, • manage resources to achieve a vibrant and relevant mission; • advance business and management knowledge through faculty scholarship; • provide high-caliber teaching of quality and current curricula; • cultivate meaningful interaction between students and a qualified faculty; and • produce graduates who have achieved specified learning goals.

“AACSB sets the global standard for business school accreditation,” said Dean Ron Shiffler. “I congratulate the faculty and staff on a job well done; I especially thank those serving on the AACSB Task Force.” The Task Force included Mary Hazelidine, chair, Tony Barilla, Jim Davis, Trey Denton, Leslie Fletcher, Chuck Harter, John Hatem, Mike McDonald, Barbara Price, Cindy Randall, Ron Shiffler, Jake Simons, and Bobbie Williams. AACSB International is recognized by the Office of Postsecondary Education of the United States Department of Education as the accrediting agency for collegiate programs in business administration and accounting.

COBA’s New Administrators

A new group has taken the helm at the College of Business Administration (COBA) at Georgia Southern University. In April, the Board of Regents approved the appointment of new officers for COBA. COBA’s new leadership team includes: Trey Denton, chair, Rivers Water Planning and Policy Center; Bill Wells, chair, Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis; Susan Williams, associate dean for student and external affairs, and Linda Wills, College of Business Administration development officer.

Study to Define Football Options

Should Georgia Southern remain in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), formerly known as Division I-AA, COBAns figure to provide key leadership in this important decision facing the university. Bids have been solicited for a four-year study to provide insight and help answer the question. Once the study is begun, it should take three to six months to complete the comprehensive assessment of Georgia Southern’s readiness for FBS football, including a market assessment, allowing fans to have a voice in the process.

The study comes during a four-year NCAA moratorium prohibiting movement from FCS to FBS between August 2007 and August 2011. When you’re looking at a decision of this magnitude, it’s good to have as much data as you can get,” Georgia Southern Athletic Director Sam Baker said. The time-frame coincidence of the study and moratorium offer an opportunity to collect necessary information on financial, scheduling, conference affiliation, and Title IX requirements to identify and assess implications of a potential move. Facilities figure to be a key factor in the deliberation. The 2000 additions of the Cowart and Pannish Buildings and the 2006 Bishop Fieldhouse have uniquely positioned the program for growth; yet, one of the primary requirements of moving up to the FBS-level would appear to be the need to approximately double the current 18,000 seating capacity of Paulson Stadium.

While the Eagles have won more national championships than any program in the country in Division I-AA (FCS), the study sets the stage for the University to analyze the potential level of support for FBS football from crucial stakeholders including season ticket holders, major gift donors, corporate sponsors, media partners, alumni fund contributors, and key constituent groups. Again, COBAns figure significantly in all these markets and promise to offer important leadership in these processes.
A Message from Dean Shiffler

AACSB Accreditation: Let’s put it in perspective. You will read elsewhere in this edition of the Eagle Executive about our successful re-accreditation effort that resulted in a letter from our accrediting agency, AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), reaffirming our commitment to quality and our compliance with the highest academic standard in the world for business schools.

Pause with me for a minute and reread those last phrases, “commitment to quality and our compliance with the highest academic standard in the world for business schools.” To be AACSB-accredited means we are all about quality curriculum, quality students, quality faculty and staff, quality buildings and campus, quality operations, and quality alumni. You cannot earn AACSB accreditation or maintain it over the past 30 years as we have done by having mediocre curriculum, students, faculty, staff, buildings, operations, or alumni.

You are living proof that whatever we did when you were a student contributed to your current station in life and in business, and (hopefully you’d agree) that you are better off because of it.

Complying with the highest academic standards in the world sounds pretty lofty, but if the shoe fits—then we should wear it. There are more than 10,000 business schools in the world, and that number is growing. We are one of only 555 of those schools that have earned AACSB accreditation.

It may seem “ho hum” to you because it seems every school claims to be accredited. But, if you are a sports fan, maybe this will help put our achievement in perspective. There are more than 1,300 colleges and universities in the U.S. recognized by the NCAA. Only 459 of these U.S. schools are accredited—less than half. Throw in all the international schools, and we can rightly say that we are in the top 5 percent of all such business schools in the world.

Quality and differentiation—that is what AACSB accreditation means to us and to you.

Ronald E. Shiffler
State-wide Water Plan

The Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan, approved by the 2008 General Assembly earlier this year, leaves business owners, farmers, local governments, nonprofits, and individuals wondering how it affects them and what is required for compliance. It is important to note the adopted plan is only the structure or outline by which the state will plan for current and future water resources, including addressing issues of:

- water quantity and quality (off- and instream uses),
- transfer of water within a basin and to other basins,
- reuse of sewage (reclaimed water) and grey water,
- conservation oriented pricing of water,
- water conservation practices,
- creation of reservoirs,
- creation of water councils for regional planning.

While the state’s growth continues to put pressure on the demand for renewable fresh water resources, the supply of fresh water is extremely limited, representing only 2.8 percent of the water on earth. As a result, the State-Wide Water Management Plan encourages businesses and industry to use more grey water or reclaimed water in the manufacturing process and to conserve quality drinking water for human consumption. For the most part, Georgia has never really needed to consider reusing water or reclaiming wastewater for business or industrial growth. Yet, there are many instances where Georgia industries have used reclaimed water in the manufacturing process. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there are currently 662 million gallons of water reused in the state each day, only a fraction of the state’s potential demand.

One of the leaders in reclaimed water usage is our neighbor to the south, Florida. In the 1980s, the State was concerned with the disposal problem of reclaimed water resources. Yet, Florida has since learned it helps meet new growth demands for both the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. Some of the largest water reutilization projects in Florida are located in the most populated areas of Orlando, Tallahassee, and St. Petersburg.

The Coastal Rivers Water Planning and Policy Center supports the utilization of alternative water resources, including reclaimed water. While such use of reclaimed water needs careful consideration due to potentially harmful pathogens and pharmaceutical chemicals, these issues are easily overcome by compliance with industry regulatory and best management practices. Georgia is currently in the process of finalizing the boundaries for the development of regional water planning councils. Each council will develop a water plan that addresses water resource capacities, current and future needs, and available tools, which will include reclaimed water. Looking forward, more information, guidelines, and potential incentives for using reclaimed water will be developed within the next few years.

Georgia Southern University 2008 Award of Merit Winner

Zandra Brasington
In partnership with corporate sponsors Wachovia, United Parcel Service (UPS), Watkins Real Estate, Primerica Financial Services, and the W. E. Carter Leadership Endowment, the College of Business Administration has created a special program for its best and brightest students. The COBA Corporate Leadership Council sponsors have funded $1,000 scholarships for each of these students and are providing leadership workshops exclusively for Council members. With COBA’s Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership faculty serving as hosts, scholars meet informally with faculty and representatives from each of the corporate sponsors. An executive from one of the companies delivers a leadership program for all scholars, after which participants are invited to join in receptions and a dinner following the final seminar. The students receiving these scholarships are referred to as Wachovia, UPS, Watkins, Primerica, and Carter Scholars, respectively; together, the thirty-five scholars form the COBA Corporate Leadership Council.
Betta Gamma Sigma (BGS), the honor society sponsored by AACSB International, honored Dean Julian Deal, vice president of COBA, and his wife Frances. Deal was honored at his 28th annual induction banquet on March 31. Only business schools that have earned AACSB accreditation are eligible to have BGS chapters. Inductees to this society receive the highest recognition business students worldwide may receive. The mission of BGS is “to encourage and honor academic achievement in the study of business, to foster personal and professional excellence, to advance the values of the Society, and to serve its lifelong members.” The chapter honororee designation is offered to those who have furthered the ideals of the society through outstanding business and managerial leadership.

In 2008, the chapter honororee, Jenny Gentry, was born in Richmond, VA, moved to Atlanta at age 6, and came to Georgia Southern in 1977. At Georgia Southern, she held a number of leadership positions and was named Delta Sorority & Delta Theta. Jenny opened a successful 25-year career in banking with Wachovia, holding positions as senior community banker, branch manager, dealer and finance relationship manager, and small business banking team leader. Jenny made history in 2006, becoming the first female bank president in the Savannah area, with her appointment as senior vice president and market president for FY 2007, when a branch was opened in the Savannah–Statesboro region.

Jenny has served as chair of the board for the YMCA of Coastal Georgia, the first female to hold this title in the YMCA’s over 156-year history. She has also held board positions in Savannah South Rotary Club, the First Georgia Club Board of Governors, the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, and The United Way. Jenny was awarded the Georgia House of Representatives Commendation Award for Community Involvement, in 2002, in recognition of her outstanding leadership with Savannah, and completed the GA100 Mindfield Group Women’s Leadership Program in 2004.

A colleague of Jenny’s remarked “She leads by example, and because of that, she has the respect of those who work with her.

She is extremely dedicated to her work, customers, and community.” While her dedication is evident in the work she does every day to make the community a better place to live and to work, there is another side of Jenny that loves practical jokes. Jenny’s career as a prankster began in her college days when she moved all of her sorority sister’s bedroom furniture out of the KD suite and set it back up exactly as it was in the parking lot! Years later, on the commercial banking floor of Wachovia, her colleagues arrived one morning to find their restroom had been turned into a disco, complete with hot pink shag carpeting, a disco ball, door heads, posters of Saturday Night Fever, and a guest sign in book! Yes, when Jenny puts her mind to something, the outcome is always successful!

The School of Accountancy’s 18th Annual Accounting Day Celebration, sponsored by the Zeta Delta Gamma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi and Georgia Southern University Accounting Association, was held April 23. The event kicked off with a field day at the RAC pavilion hosted by Beta Alpha Psi, followed by a professional presentation and program by Gary Davis, CPA, Subway franchisee, Statesboro. A career fair in the Nessmith-Lane building later engaged 23 accounting firms and industry representatives with students to discuss full-time positions and internships. In the evening, the annual awards banquet honored COBA’s graduating seniors in accounting and recognized outstanding accounting alumni Barry Deal by initiating him into Beta Alpha Psi, the national accounting honor society. Mr. Deal, vice president of risk management with Colonial Oil Industries, Inc., is the 2008 COBA BAC member, Julian Deal, and his wife, Frances. During the awards ceremony, several academic and professional awards were presented: Lesley Calhoun received a scholarship from the Georgia Society of CPAs. Chris Jenkins and Travis Williams received scholarships from the Georgia State University. Celeste Thompson, Kaushif Royal, Lee Glosson, Miranda Johnson, and Kyle Manning received scholarships from the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs. Jonathan Branch, Madison Lee, Callyn Callow, and Brian Prevatt received scholarships from the Southeast Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs.

Darin Lane received the Educational Foundation, Georgia Society of CPAs, Academic Excellence Award for being the School of Accountancy’s top graduating senior, and the Savannah Chapter, Institute of Management Accountants, received the Academic Distinction Award to Farah Payesh.

Accounting Alumni scholarships, sponsored by the Southeast Chapter and Savannah Chapter, Georgia Society of CPAs, were awarded to Christina Larmon, Krista Wood, Jennifer Gay, Erik Krohn-schuter, and Whitney Howard. Paul

LaGrone Scholarships, established by former business dean Paul LaGrone, were awarded to Kathy Brown and Chase Hedges.

SOA’s Internationals Student Award was presented to Ciciashia Cleveland, while the Federation of Schools of Accountancy selected Sosi Kit Cheng for the 2008 outstanding fifth-year student achievement award.

Becker CPA Review, Jacksonville, awarded Markita Jones a complete online CPA review package; Glend Publications presented certificates to William Donaldson, Dmitry Zhest, Paul Wilhoit, and Brian Ryan; and to the BGS staff.

Alumni, presented an award to Allen Olson; Habib, Arogzie, & Wynne, LLP, presented an award to Amilasinn Mack; & Bromley, LLP, Savannah, presented a scholarship to Abby Gail Parham, Professor of the Year, Eddie Metrejon, Excellence in Research; and Leslie Higgins, Excellence in Service. Billy Hickman presented the 2008–2009 Dabbs Hickman Hill and Cannon, Faculty Scholar Awards to Abby Gail Parham and Adrienne Richardson while Beta Alpha Psi named Dwight Sneathen recipient of the Ori James Recognition Award. In addition to Markita Jones being recognized as Beta Alpha Psi advisor.

In addition to the above sponsors, Accounting Day is made possible by Clifton, Clif, Firestone, and Parker, LLC, Deemer, Fenworth & Freishe, LLP, Deloitte Services, LLP, the Georgia State University of Audits and Accounts—Education, Health-care, and State Government Divisions; Giroff Hillegas and Ingwersen, LLP; Grant Thornton, LLP; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Hanchuck Atkins & Co., LLP; Institute of Management Accountants—Large, Small and Medium Firms; LPA, LLP; Price waterhouse Cooper’s; Smith and Howard, PC; Thigpen Jones Seaton & Co., PC; and Windham Braann, PC.

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The inaugural Star Awards went to Bobbie Williams and Rachanda Bostic in January, who were cited for working shorthanded at the end of last semester and the beginning of this semester, helping to re-design forms and procedures, and getting folders ready for the current advising season. For February, the Star Awards went to Lisa Williams, who was instrumental in arranging, organizing, and hosting the annual meeting of the Board of Regents Academic Advisory Committee for Business Administration for deans and directors of business divisions, programs, schools, and colleges in the University System. And, in March, Carolyn Price was recognized for her extraordinary work in processing pre-tenure reviews and annual performance evaluations, handling the year-end budgets, and coordinating the COBA/CIT annual awards banquet.
MSAE: New Online Economics Degree

Fall 2008 will mark the beginning of a new on-line master degree program for graduate studies in the College of Business Administration. The master of science in applied economics (MSAE) will provide graduates with analytical capabilities in three concentrations, regional economic development, financial economics, and industry organization and regulation, including skills and competencies in market analysis and quantitative methods. The program’s graduates are expected to be competitive for employment in financial institutions, industry, and utility and governmental organizations engaged in private-enterprise, economic development.

The three track concentration offerings are designed to ensure graduates have broad exposure to business and governmental employment opportunities. The first track engages a rigorous introduction to statistical and econometric methods; the second includes an economic overview of industrial organization and its regulation; and, the third encompasses application of regional economic development principles.

The 30 hour master of science in applied economics course of study is designed to be completed within a calendar year by a 12-hour spring semester, 6-hour summer semester, and an additional 12-hour fall semester. Admission requirements include a bachelor degree with minimum 3.0 GPA, minimum combined GRE of 1000, and references reflecting relevant experience and achievements for potential success in graduate study. Provisional admission may be granted by interview.

Advancing your career no longer has to interrupt your professional or family life. The MSAE offers the opportunity for professionals to continue their education on-line while maintaining full-time employment anywhere in the United States, Canada, or any U.S. Military installation. For more information, contact John Brown, School of Economic Development, at (912) 478-5216 or Mike McDonald, COBA Graduate Studies, at (912) 478-5767.

MBA in the Spotlight

Michael B. Kane received his MBA from Georgia Southern in 2005 while employed in the Office of Admissions as assistant director. He later joined IBM in Atlanta as a client executive and currently covers public sector accounts, including colleges and universities, secondary schools, and local governments. In his first year with IBM, Mike completed the IBM Global Sales School and attained 110 percentile performance rating. He was recently named head of the marketing focal group. His wife, Elizabeth (Liz), a Georgia Southern alumna, graduated in 2002 with a degree in justice studies and is employed with American Trust Bank, Roswell. They have a son, Brendan, who will be three in July.

MSAE: Forensic Accounting

The Masters of Accounting concentration in forensic accounting offers exciting courses and learning opportunities for students.

White Collar Crime

Don Berez’s white collar crime course featured Project Adrian, a partnership with the IRS Criminal Investigation Division offering forensic accounting students an interactive classroom experience. Special agents from Savannah, Macon, and Augusta recently traveled to Georgia Southern to work with our students. The project placed students in groups and assigned them hypothetical financial crimes, including business owners skimming funds from their company, a bar owner keeping two sets of books, a multi-filer tax scheme, and a drug trafficker, among others. Each group of students had an experienced IRS Special Agent to coach them and provide learning pointers during the exercise. Students acted as “Honorary Agents” to expose the fraud.

Expert Witnessing

In a mock trial conducted at the Bulloch County Courthouse by Tom Buckhoff’s expert witness class, plaintiff shareholders of Brodnax Minerals, a gold mining company, sued their accounting firm, Healy & Wallace LLP, for allegedly violating professional standards in issuing a “clean” opinion on Brodnax, which had fraudulently over-stated gold reserves. Bulloch County State Court Judge Gary Mikell presided, Susan Cox, Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, acted as consulting attorney for the plaintiff team, and Laura Wheaton, Brown Rountree, PC, acted as consulting attorney for the defendant team. After excellent arguments by the student teams, the jury returned a unanimous verdict absolving the accounting firm from liability in failing to detect the fraud.

From the Director

Dean Emeritus Ori James, in recent years, offered insight on accreditation. “When Georgia Southern achieved initial accreditation in 1977, there were 202 accredited institutions, all in North America. Today, there are more than 500 world-wide and only 25 percent of the business schools in the U.S. are accredited. It is interesting Georgia Southern was accredited before some prestigious universities including Rice, Duke, and Vanderbilt, among others.”

As director of COBA graduate programs, it is interesting to reflect on the MBA program, originally begun in 1968 and graduating its first class in 1970. The program first received AACSB accreditation in 1981. The MAcc program, conceived as an MBA with concentration in accounting in 1995, was formally offered and first accredited in 1997. The Georgia WebMBA™ was started and accredited in January 2001.

This year, COBA’s MBA, WebMBA™, and MAcc degree programs all received positive continued accreditation from AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. We are very proud of this reaffirmation. AACSB is the highest level of accreditation available to business programs worldwide. Additionally, in recent visits by deans from peer institutions, all three graduate studies programs have been recognized as providing quality, affordable degrees.

Graduate Management Admission Council

Perhaps a lesser known, but equally important, consideration reflecting the quality of COBA graduate programs is our college’s full membership in one of the most prestigious associations of business graduate schools in the world, the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®). GMAC® is a not-for-profit association of graduate business schools open only to schools offering a masters program in business administration. GMAC® “owns” and administers the GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test®) annually to more than 200,000 test takers worldwide, and our students and alumni take the GMAT in order to gain admission to our programs. In addition to administering and researching the GMAT, GMAC® offers a range of courses and services to member schools.

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Matthew Barnes (BBA, MKTG, 1986) is currently the director of relationship marketing for PGA Magazine. The golf travel market is a $28 billion market with 58 percent of consumer influence coming from professionals. Matthew is responsible for selecting the appropriate golf professionals to attend trips to individual resorts. Matthew handles every facet of the golf professional’s trip from airfare, accommodations, meals, and, of course, golf. These destinations include Jamaica, Scotland, all over the United States, and in the near future Argentina. Matthew currently resides in Atlanta and is the father of two daughters.

Latavius Powell recently joined Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor in the global wealth management division in Atlanta. Latavius is a COBA graduate who earned both his undergraduate and MBA from Southern. He is president of Phoenix Rising Toastmasters of Decatur, an international public speaking group and a member of Henry County’s Cultural Diversity Committee. Latavius was recently named one of top 50 rising stars by Atlanta Business Journal Magazine and honored by the 100 Black Men of Dekalb for his work in teaching school children speaking and communication skills.
Many Thanks to Our

The College of Business Administration is grateful to alumni and friends who, through their contributions, have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in business education. Contributors who earmarked the College of Business, one of its programs, or one of its scholarship funds, prepared the following list of featured donors:

### Donor Spotlight

**David Pitman**

David Pitman, senior vice president of the iWORKS division of SunGard, is responsible for managing the sales, sales and marketing, insurance solutions, and technology software solutions branded iWORKS. David manages a sales team of more than 40 members located throughout the world generating more than $76 million annually. He started with SunGard as vice president of sales in 1997 with sales responsibility for Enterprise Accounting System and Enterprise Portfolio System. The scope of his sales oversight expanded over the years to leading sales teams for COMPASS, NAVIGATOR, FrontTier, PrepCode, Premium Billing System, and GBAS as well as marketing for iWORKS. In these expanding roles, David has been a ten time 100% Club award winner. Prior to his current role within SunGard, David was part owner and vice president of sales and marketing for FinTech Systems (formerly Norrell Corporation). He started his sales career with Unisys Corporation after graduating from Georgia Southern University in 1979 with a BBA in marketing.

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- Paul D. King, Jr.
- John F. Kohn
- Michelle K. Kukshtel
- Risa Kumazawa
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- William B. Leverett
- Mary Ligon
- Jun Liu
- M. Jill Lockwood
- Richard G. Lopresti
- Luree Lord
- Lord Eye Center, Whlt Lord
- Loxscreen Company, Inc.
- Lumnus Corporation
- Abby Louise Lynes
- Rebecca R. Malcolm
- Karl B. Mannott
- The Material Handling Education Foundation, Victoria Wheeler
- Maudlin & Jenkins
- William W. McCartney
- BrittonMckay
- McClain, Calloway, McCullough, Clark, William H. McClain, II
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during 2007 are listed below. Care has been taken in the preparation of this list to assure complete and accurate recording. If, however, omissions or errors have occurred, we express our sincere regret and request that you bring such errors to our attention.

Christopher Taylor Smith  
Smith & Howard, PC  
Smith-Healy Farms, Inc.  
L. Dwight Sneadten, Jr.  
Snooky’s Restaurant  
Society of Professional Service Professionals, Gina Grantham  
Southeast Georgia Chapter  
Society of CPAs  
Southeastern Hospitality Services, Douglas H. Lambert  
Elton J. Spain  
J. Daniel Spieght  
Family Charitable Trust  
Helen and Asbury Stembridge, Jr.  
Lewis M. Stewart  
R. Kenny Stone  
Emmie Lee Strickland  
Gloria J. Stuart  
Subway, GMD Services, Inc., Gary M. Davis  
Tailored Business Systems, Tom Beechum  
Evelyn Talmage  
Cheryl Tatsumi  
Kimberly Thymes

W.S. Babcock, Corp.  
Wachovia Foundation  
Waaco Fire & Casualty Insurance Co.  
Roger W. Waddell  
Robert C. Walk  
Carol L. Waller  
Wal-Mart  
Wassen Foundation, W. T. Wassen  
John T. Watson, III  
William H. Wells  
John B. White  
Eve P. White  
C. Don Wiggins, CPA  
Debra Wiggins  
Bobbie W. Williams  
Lisa S. Williams  
Jerry Wilson  
LeVon Wilson  
Mildred N. Wilson  
Wright & Edwards, PC, Wallace H. Wright  
Bill Z. Yang  
Mark A. Yanochik  
Rongrong Zhang  
Xiaolong Zhang

Top 10 Reasons for Making a Contribution to COBA

#10 Reduced funding from State appropriations  
#9 Ability to designate where your dollars go  
#8 Personal pride in your alma mater  
#7 A tax deduction!  
#6 A sense of “giving back”  
#5 National rankings

While it is easy to understand that our football team’s ranking is strongly related to wins and losses, it is harder to figure out how Georgia Southern’s academic ranking is determined. One of the variables often used in computing academic rankings is the percentage of alumni who make financial contributions to the University. The more alumni who give back, the higher our ranking.

“Georgia Southern” and designating it to “COBA”? Any contribution—no matter how large or small—is most appreciated!

Thank you!

Stay tuned for Reasons 4 through 1.
The Eugene M. Bishop Award for Sustained Excellence
J. Lowell Mooney

The Eugene M. Bishop Award for Sustained Excellence is awarded to the COBA professor who has demonstrated proficiency in all areas of teaching, research, and service. Lowell Mooney came to COBA in 1989 teaching management accounting and has received numerous awards for teaching, research, and service. He is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Georgia Society of CPAs, and other professional organizations. Lowell is chair of the School of Accountancy’s Student Recruitment, Retention, and Placement committee and created the School Orientation and Recruiting program (SCORING) initiative identified by AACSB as one of COBA’s Best Practices.

The CIT Staff Award for Excellence
Joey Reeves

Joey Reeves, having provided almost 20 years of computing service to academia, exemplifies an extraordinary level of service, support, and leadership to the College of Information Technology. He has taught computing and understands the need for good, sound technical support. Joey has been instrumental in helping create development curriculum in the areas of IT infrastructure and networking, and, more recently, his expertise and skills were instrumental in negotiating the Dell contract for replacement of the College’s lab computers.

The William A. Freeman Professor of the Year
Chris W. Paul

Chris W. Paul, II, received a BS in economics from Southwest Missouri State University, a PhD in economics from Texas A&M University, and retired in 1999 as professor and chair, Department of Economics and Finance, University of Alabama-Huntsville with emeritus status. Chris served COBA as professor and chair of the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis from 2000 until 2005; when he returned to teaching. He has served on COBA’s governance and assessment committees, is a prolific researcher, and perhaps most importantly, is a research mentor and advisor to COBA faculty across disciplines.

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service in the MBA
E. James Randall

Jim Randall joined COBA in 1977 and, during his career, provided service and leadership in creation of the Association of Marketing Theory and Practice, the Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice, and the National Conference of Sales Manage-ment. In retirement, he continues to be instrumental in developing the logistics program and new sales center, teach as an adjunct professor in the MBA program, and volunteer for distance learning graduate classes in Savannah.

The W. A. & Emma Lou Citrider Award for Excellence in Teaching
Michael Reksulak

Michael Reksulak’s commitment to teaching is leveraged by experiences he brings to the classroom. A former student wrote, “Dr. Reksulak made a difference in my life in a way that no other educator had been able to do in eighteen years. I commend him for his successes in the classroom, and for helping students gain so much more than the knowledge he passes on in his lectures.” Michael’s research focus is analyzing efficiency of cost-sharing mechanisms and effectiveness of industrial regulation. Before turning his sights on economics, he was a journalist and continues to write a regular economic column for the Savannah Morning News.

The Tomlinson & Bond Families Staff Award for Excellence
Paula P. Newton

“Nicks” Newton is reliable, attentive to detail, and always willing to help maintain budgets, update class schedules, and help students with scheduling as Associate Dean Mary Hazelwines. A former department secretary for Management, Marketing, & Logistics, she continued to support the position for more than a year after moving to her current position, providing extraordinary service to COBA in recent years.

The CIT Award for Distinguished Service
Ronald J. MacKinnon

Ron MacKinnon came to Georgia Southern as visiting professor from St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia. Formally joining the IT faculty in August 2003, he has represented the IS department and CIT on multiple University committees and has been SAP coordinator and SAP University Alliance liaison since its inception at Georgia Southern. An “SAP evangelist,” Ron has been a primary advocate and champion of incorporating SAP into information systems, accounting, and other business management courses.

The CIT Award for Distinguished Faculty Award
Michael Reksulak

Michael Reksulak’s commitment to teaching is leveraged by experiences he brings to the classroom. A former student wrote, “Dr. Reksulak made a difference in my life in a way that no other educator had been able to do in eighteen years. I commend him for his successes in the classroom, and for helping students gain so much more than the knowledge he passes on in his lectures.” Michael’s research focus is analyzing efficiency of cost-sharing mechanisms and effectiveness of industrial regulation. Before turning his sights on economics, he was a journalist and continues to write a regular economic column for the Savannah Morning News.

The Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service
Donna K. Fisher

Donna Fisher has provided leadership for the BBA in regional economic development program since joining the COBA faculty in 2001. With service-based learning at its core, REDV students have become highly visible in programs throughout Southeast Georgia. Prior to joining COBA, Donna served as a Peace Corps volunteer, working extensively in Brazil and other countries.

The T. J. Morris, Jr., Faculty Award for Outstanding Research
John T. King

John King’s current research interests include analysis of credit card use and informational issues associated with sale of intellectual property. His research has been published in the Journal of Private Enterprise, Journal of Cultural Economics, Financial Services Review, and Tapias in Theoretical Economics. He has been a faculty advisor to SIFE and is a Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow. Before joining COBA in 2002, he taught economics at Duke, Elon, and Vanderbilt.

The Bank of America Faculty Award
P. Eddie Metrejean

Eddie Metrejean’s teaching and research interests are in accounting information systems and auditing, where he has published a variety of articles in accounting, business, and taxation journals. Eddie is currently working to integrate SAP into the accounting curriculum and serves on the School of Accountancy’s assessment committee, having provided key input into AACSB accounting accreditation. He is a member of the American Accounting Association, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Georgia Society of CPAs, and the Society of Louisiana CPAs.

The 2008 Awards of Excellence for faculty and staff were presented at a ceremony held at the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building on April 18, 2008.
Department of Excellence

Faculty awards are based upon a variety of characteristics including research activities, teaching excellence, distinguished service, and development potential.

Dean’s Citation for Student Engagement

Kathleen H. Grubin, Aid to Students

Kathleen Grubin involves students in independent study and research on behalf of organizations. Her students gain experience in gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information and enjoy traveling to present their findings. Kathleen has arranged funding to take students to Toronto, Canada, to participate in retailing projects; conducted mock interviews with Target representatives on campus, and solicited retailers to join in the Logistics, Retailing, & IT Career Fair.

TracyAnn L. Hany, Engagement and Concern for Students

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, TracyAnn Harry’s warmth and generous nature make her a favorite of students and colleagues. Under her leadership as advisor, the Economics Club introduced student research seminars leading to several students presenting their work at professional conferences. Her academic specialties are economics of education and economic development in which she pursues an active collaborative research agenda.

Stephanie R. Sipe, Innovative and Creative Teaching

As one of the most innovative professors in the school of Accountancy, Stephanie Sipe challenges her students, makes learning fun, and receives excellent teaching evaluations. Her three minute expert activity makes class participation fun. She has an open door policy for all students and enjoys advising. Stephanie teaches legal environment of business, the new fraud and society forensic course, and will soon be involved teaching the new first year experience course.

Camille F. Rogers, IS Internship Coordinator

Camille Rogers consistently earns high recommendations in the Department of Information Systems. As the department’s internship and co-op coordinator, she logs hundreds of miles each year doing on-site evaluations and ensuring internship and co-op students are fulfilling their obligations to employers. Selle’s impact on students may best be summed up as “shock and awe”, consistent with her upbringing as a military brat, because she fully engages students both in and beyond the classroom.

Paige L. Rutmer, Student Success

Paige Rutmer quickly and consistently dispels student fears and trepidations to develop an excellent working relationship and help them succeed. Students appreciate her organization, clarification of difficult concepts, enthusiasm, and willingness to help. One student wrote, “She spent a great deal of time helping me learn the material and helped me with other courses. She is by far the most enthusiastic and helpful teacher I’ve ever had.” Another student commented, “She is always available, very helpful, and kind.”

Edward H. Sibbald, Center for Excellence in Financial Services

Ed Sibbald’s practical experience and classroom skills have made him a popular instructor with students. He coordinates internships for finance majors and serves as faculty advisor for the Student Finance Association, translating his professional background and credibility with area bankers into opportunities for students.

Linda G. Mullen, assistant professor of marketing, is regarded as one of the best professors in the department. She is extremely student-oriented and spends countless hours mentoring, creating résumés, and finding jobs for students. An innovative teacher who has captured the attention of her students through unconventional techniques, Linda’s leadership was instrumental in launching the new Center for Excellence in Sales and Management.

The Brown & Williamson Faculty Award

The inaugural Jane White Marketing Scholar Award, named most generously for the COBA benefactor, was awarded to Linda Munilla, who joined COBA as professor of marketing in 1979. Linda maintains strong research and service records while being regarded as one of the Department’s best teachers. She regularly teaches large sections of principles of marketing and has recently published five journal articles. Linda was awarded the prestigious Bishop Award for Sustained Excellence in 2005.

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The Sonny Butler CIT Award of Excellence

Linda Carwell

Linda Carwell, secretary to the CIT Dean, is recipient of the inaugural Sonny Butler Award for honoring the memory of Associate Professor Sonny Butler. Butler is remembered by students and colleagues as a fully engaged and caring instructor, advisor, career coach, scholar, and friend. As founding secretary of CIT, Linda is fully engaged in the lives of CIT students, faculty, and staff. Often going above and beyond to attend to details, she is the glue that holds CIT together while warming the hearts of all she encounters.

The M. Albert Burke Faculty Award

Ioannis Barkoulas

The Al Burke Faculty Fellowship is an endowed faculty fellowship awarded annually to the “Most Valuable Player” among the finance faculty. Ioannis “John” Barkoulas received his BBA from the Athens School of Economics and Business Science, Greece; MBA from West Texas A&M; and PhD in economics from Boston College. He taught as a visiting assistant professor at West Virginia University and Boston College and an faculty at Louisiana Tech University and the University of Tennessee. Since joining the faculty at Georgia Southern in 2003, he has distinguished himself as a prolific researcher with thirty-five papers in refereed academic journals and a dynamic finance professor with the reputation for intensive assignments reflecting real-world situations.

Cindy H. Randall, Beta Gamma Sigma

Cindy Randall has served as advisor, secretary, and treasurer for Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Society since 1999; annually coordinating the National Student leadership Forum and Awards Banquet. This summer she will join the SOAR team in advising and registering incoming freshmen and transfer students. Cindy regularly teaches quantitative analysis and consistently strives to make the subject accessible and relevant to students.

Ron and Barbara Shiffer Instructor Award

Janet Moss

Janet Moss joined COBA in 2000, having previously taught at Delta State University, Mississippi, and managing human resources positions in industry. In teaching business statistics, management and organizational behavior, and human resource management, her initiative, dedication to students, and dependability earn her the Ron and Barbara Shiffer Instructor Award.

The Charles R. Gibbs Faculty Award

Jerry J. Burke

Jerry Burke received his BSBA in economics, MBA and MS in decision and information sciences, and PhD in operations management from the University of Florida. Over the past three years, Jerry has distinguished himself in teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in operations management and developing a new course for the OM emphasis. He is a member of the governance and student resources committees, serves as a referee for several academic journals, and participates in University-sponsored “Conversations with Professors” and “Operation Move-In” programs to assist incoming students. Jerry is also active in the Statesboro community, often seen flipping pancakes during the Kiwanis Fair each fall.

Linda S. Munilla

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### COBA Students Recognized at University Honors Day

Students who received COBA-sponsored awards were recognized at this year’s University Honors Day. The awards presented at Honors Day and the names of the recipients are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accountancy</th>
<th>Economic Development</th>
<th>Finance &amp; Quantitative Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr. Scholarship</td>
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<td>Kathy E. Brown</td>
<td>The Wall Street Journal Award</td>
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<td>Jessie Neemst</td>
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<td>Omicron Delta Epsilon:</td>
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<td>Ali Sabaevi</td>
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<td>Aubrey Smith</td>
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<td>Jayna Selph</td>
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**Senior Inductees**

- Jerry L. Barker
- Robert K. Betz
- Victoria T. Brady
- Steven R. Brinson
- Ryon H. Bruce
- Ashley N. Clements
- Shannaon O. Dawda
- Ashley E. Ferguson
- Rebecca S. Gelb
- Kelley K. Hanada
- Jennifer L. Harris
- Tiffany N. Hedrick
- Christopher C. Jarriel
- Jarrett B. Kersey
- Darin M. Lane
- Joseph C. Low
- Megan L. Lazzara
- Lehah M. Lewis
- Kerri A. Lyles
- Mallory B. Nester
- Luke D. Odom
- Kathryn D. Randall
- Lauren K. Register

**Junior Inductees**

- Melissa S. Loutsch
- Ichechi N. Nathans
- Matthew C. Poage
- Julie A. Pearce
- Kayla R. Pittman
- Bradley G. Proctor
- Brittnay G. Pugh
- Jonathan L. Rowe
- Fiona M. Ryan
- Allan M. Simmons

- Christina R. Smith
- Tricia Sorto
- Matthew J. Steinberg
- Lindsay E. Thompson
- Christopher E. Uman
- Stephanie E. Vangrav
- Jessica C. Vaner
- Leann M. Walls
- Mary E. Wamack
- Julia C. Wells

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**Graduate Inductees**

- Olivia D. Batten
- Jonathan L. Branch
- Kathy E. Brown
- Morgan J. Carswell
- Lesley A. Bulkhead
- Alexandra B. Dasidman
- Robert B. Dixon
- Lela M. Duke
- Erica K. Frederick
- Ashley L. Gaff
- Kelly Gaige

- Samuel M. Gaston
- Jennifer D. Gay
- Paul E. Giddish
- Meredith R. Hugler
- Farragh M. Herring
- Charles J. Hodges
- Whitney L. Howard
- Joshua R. Jones
- Amanda R. Kindig
- Erik J. Kramschuster
- James L. Ledford

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**BETA GAMMA SIGMA**

The Honor Society for AACSB Accrediting Business Programs
W. Jarell Jones (1970), formerly in Statesboro, is now on St. Simons Island, where he has his law office. He is married to Joy Martin. Email: jarell@njpcj.com.

Curtis L. Quinn (1977; Delta Sg), formerly in Orlando, FL, is now in Fairhope, AL, where he is the district manager for Penske Truck Leasing, Mobile, AL. He is married to Wanda Smith, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: curtis.quinn@penske.com.

Nina Clark Thompson (1980), Mount Vernon, has retired as a partner from Lavins, Clark, & Co., Vidalia. She is married to H. Van Thompson, III. Email: nina@cvbyouth.com.

Louise S. Shackelford (1982), Dublin, is now a real estate agent with Fidling and Company. She is married to Jim Shackelford. Email: shack@fiddling.com.

Perry C. Barnett (1988), Gainesville, CPA, is a partner in Rushton and Company, LLC. He is married to Tracy Grooms, a 1988 Georgia Southern education graduate. Email: pbarnett@rushtonandcompany.com.

Mark A. Weeks (1991; MBA 1995), Brunswick, is now the plant controller for Rich Products, Corp. Email: mwweeks@rich.com.

Catherine Ann Endicott Miles (1993), formerly in Lilburn, is now in Cashshtulan, Surrey, UK. Email: caemiles@googlemail.com.

Allison Green Couch (2004; M.Acc 2007), formerly in Pooler, is now in Harlem, where she is a senior accountant with The Cleveland Group, a CPA firm, in Martinez. She is married to Chad Couch, a 2004 Georgia Southern marketing graduate. Email: acouch@clevelandgroup.net.

Jennifer Runnion (2004), Woodstock, has been named controller of Waltkam Companies, Atlanta. Jennifer is the first female to be named controller for the company. She is married to Matthew Barozzini, a 2003 Georgia Southern graduate.

Latalisa LaShawn Roberts (1998), Savannah, is an accountant with Skinner, Barndoll, and Lane, CPA’s. Email: lalbeaubit141@yahoo.com.

Misty Watson (2004; M.Acc 2005), formerly in Bowdon, is now in Kennesaw, where she is a contract administrator with C. W. Matthews Contracting Co., Marietta. Email: misty.n.watson@gmail.com.

Cassandra Cheevers (2005), Sylvester, is a staff accountant with Allen Pritchett & Bassett, CPAs, Tifton. She received her M.Acc from UGA in 2006. Email: ccheevers1@yahoo.com.

Samantha Grovenstein Lee (2005), Statesboro, is now a software trainer and consultant with CCH Tax and Accounting.
Bryan C. Riddle (2005), formerly in Martinez, is now in Atlanta, where he is a trader for the Opus Trading Fund, LLC. Email: bryannriddle247@yahoo.com.

Aaron Harwood (2006), Waycross, is engaged to Christina A. Theologus, a recent Georgia Southern COE graduate. A June 30 wedding is planned.

Meghann Elizabeth Powell (2006), Statesboro, is working on a master's degree at Georgia Southern. She is a campus missionary aide with the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship. Email: megezi@hotmail.com.

Jessica Burford (2007), Savannah, is a project manager with Soura 4. Her husband, Josh. Email: jburfordjdh@gmail.com.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Donald W. Ciabani (1971), Montgomery, AL, is the executive vice president of the AmeriFirst Bank. He is married to Daun Marshall. Email: dcciabani@bellsouth.net.

Don D. Howard (1975), Jackson, SC, is married to Debra Shooter for Michelin. He is the maint. trouble-shooter for Michelin. Email: rsrigdon@aol.com.

Hoke S. Reeves, III (1987), Statesboro, executive vp for Farmers & Merchants Bank. 3d-a has been appointed to the Foundation Board Executive Committee for Ogeechee Technical College.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Buddy L. Lynes (2006), Statesboro, is an admission recruiter for Georgia Southern. Email: ablynes@gmail.com.

Michael E. Bates (1975), Jackson, SC, is the maint. trouble-shooter for Michelin. He is married to Debra Shooter. They have four children and five grandchildren. Email: mbb38@peoplepc.com.

Julie Steptoe (1985), Clarks Green, PA, is married to Carl Koneman and is completing a master's degree program in accounting. Her husband, Carl Koneman, is a CPA for Marshland Credit Union, Brunswick. She is married to Everett B. Love, a 2005 Georgia Southern management graduate. Email: marcus_f_price@georgiasouthern.edu.

Alison Capo (1989), Savannah, is the executive assistant to the COO of the Savannah Indagaica. Email: lnuweiler@gmail.com.

Several alumni are attending Georgia Southern this year, including Michael T. Steptoe (1973), who is working on a master's degree in business administration. Email: leroybagley@yahoo.com.

Taylor A. Meadows (2007), Statesboro, is working on a master's degree in business administration. Email: leroybagley@yahoo.com.

Information Systems

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Information Systems

Buddy L. Lynes (2006), Statesboro, is an admissions recruiter for Georgia Southern. Email: ablynes@gmail.com.
Middle School. She is married to Bill Dine, a 1986 Georgia Southern marketing graduate, and they have a son in college. Email: jbdine@ccsnet.net.

William A. “Bill” Dine (1986), Clarksburg, WV, is now vice president commercial business for Penn Millers Insurance Company. He is married to Julie Denton, a 1985 Georgia Southern marketing graduate, and they have a son in college. Bill was on the golf team. Email: jsdine@comcast.net.

Chuck Showsen, III (1986), Warner Robins, GA, is the senior sales rep for Purdue Pharma. His wife is Virginia. Email: clshoese@yahoocom.

Constance Folsom (1992), Lawrenceville, GA, is a teacher in the Gwinnett County School System. She is a Teacher of the Year nominee. Email: constance_smith@yahoo.com.

Rodney E. Varnadore (1994), formerly in Dallas, TX, is now in Shreveport, LA, where he is the general manager of American Solutions for Business. He is married to Jennifer Meldrum. Email: rodney21@gmail.com.

Pete L. Fraley (1995), Marietta, GA, is now the compliance engineer with Superior Essex. Email: peter.fraley@spsx.com.

Jason T. Tomberlin (1997), Macon, GA, has been named market leader of the Capital System. He is married to Julie Harris Montoya. Email: julieh202@msn.com.

Jennifer Personette Williams (2001), Alpharetta, is the owner of Mack Williams Advertising Agency, Atlanta. Email: jenniferpersonettewilliams@yahoo.com.

Margaret Heard (2002), Mt. Pleasant, SC, is married to Zack Honebrink, a Georgia Southern alumnus, and they have daughter, Riley, who was born on December 13, 2007. Email: mheard2004@yahoo.com.

Sarah Loit (2002), Douglas, GA, is an account executive with Omrida. She is married to Jason A. Brown, a Georgia Southern alumnus. Email: sbrown@omniaadssales.com.

Wole Oyedejnoty (2002), Delta SGP, formerly in Silver Springs, MD, is now in Glen Burnie, MD, where he is employed as a special para-educator teacher’s assistant by the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Lisa Bollinger (2003), Mill Creek, WA, is a buyer for Macy’s Northwest, Seattle.

Gary M. Cooler (2003), Evans, GA, is now an account manager with Husqvarna, Augusta. He is married to Melissa Cook. Email: gary.cooler@husqvarna.com.

Jayed Ray Jenkins (2003), Statesboro, is the owner of Insurancia Solutions. He is married to Clarissa, a current Georgia Southern student. Email: jayed.jenkins@ hotmail.com.

Chad Couch (2004), formerly in Pooler, GA, is now in Harlem, GA, where he is an outside salesperson for Maner Builders Supply Company, Aiken, SC. He is married to Alison Green Couch, a 2004 and 2007 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Matthew Beau Hopkins (2004), Hilton Head Island, SC, is an account executive with Cumulus Broadcasting, Savannah.

R. Dustin McCann (2004), formerly in Athens, GA, is now in Atlanta, where he is the sales manager for Amherst Mortgage Corporation. Email: dmccann@amherst.com.

Kimberly Ann Smith (2004), formerly in Alexandria, VA, is now in Atlanta, where she is the HR/payroll administrator for Atlanta FPDs International. Email: krsmith2222@yahoo.com.

Sarah A. Wood (2004), Abingdon, VA, is a recruiter for Technical Associates. Email: sarahs11@hotmail.com.

Miriam Daniel Deberry (2005), Statesboro, GA, is a patient advocate at East Georgia Regional Medical Center. She received her master of health science in 2007. Miriam is married to Erick P. Deberry, a Georgia Southern sports management graduate.

Aries A. Hoygood (2005), Lyons, GA, is employed with M & T Farms. He is married to Megan Collins, a 2007 Georgia Southern school psychologist graduate. Email: fmatters12@ballisounds.net.

Julie Harris Montoya (2005), formerly in North Carolina, is now in Hoschton. She is married to Justin Montoya, a SCAD graduate.

Catherine J. Barnes (2006), formerly in Fernandina Beach, FL, is now at St. Simons Island, where she is a sales manager for Verizon Wireless, Brunswick. Email: catharine.barnes@verizonwireless.com.

James C. Nau, Jr. (2006), formerly in Lawrenceville, is now in Houston, TX, where he is the sales manager for Silver Eagle Distributors.

Seán E. Santiago (2008), formerly in Pinellas Park, FL, where he is a customer sales executive with Interstate Transport, St. Petersburg, FL. He is engaged to Misty Anderson, a 2006 Georgia Southern graduate. An October 11, 2008, wedding is planned to be held in Statesboro. Email: seans745@yahoo.com.

Christine Gerstner Fogle (2007), Statesboro, is the office manager for Kay Jewellers. She is married to James Brice Fogle, a 2007 Georgia Southern COB graduate.

Lorraine Elizabeth Roth (2007), formerly in Kathleen, GA, is now in Macon, GA, where she is a pharmaceutical sales rep for Bahringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals. Email: lorraine.roth@hotmail.com.

MACC

Nancy Jane Cooper (2005), Patterson, CA, has recently married Jacob Dettl Walker, III, of Blackshear, GA.

Heather Happoldt (2006), formerly in Leesburg, VA, is now in Lexington, VA, where she is an Internal auditor for Citifriends, Inc. Email: a12584@yahoo.com.

Sam Giles, Jr. (2007), Dallas, GA, is an accountant with Hasel, Aragely, & Wynne, CPA, Atlanta.

Callie Gordon (2007), Marietta, GA, is an associate auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Atlanta. Email: callie.gordon@us.pwc.com.

Julie Harrison (2007), formerly in Cairo, GA, is now in Atlanta, where she is an associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Email: julieh202@mtn.com.

IN MEMORIAM


Michael E. Szczechowski (1995), formerly in Elizabethtown, NJ, is now in Katy, TX, where he is the senior vice president/business aviation for World Fuel Services, Houston, TX. He is married to Wendy Szczechowski, a 1996 Georgia Southern MBA graduate. Email: wszczech@wftcorp.com.

Yvonne R. Parkhurst (2006), formerly in Brunswick, GA, is now in Boulder, CO, where she is the women’s national team’s administrator for USA Rugby. Email: yparkhurst@usaugby.org.

Susanne Michelle Martin (2007), Savannah, GA, is an IT person with Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. Email: suschelle@aol.com.

Farrah Lynn Brinsin (2007), formerly in Millen, GA, is now in Charlotte, NC, where she is the business and development assistant for the City of Lincolnton, NC. Email: lynnbrinsin@cityoflincolnton.nc.us.

Jennifer Rev casan Connlin (2001), formerly in Round Rock, TX, is now in Lexington, NC, where she is expecting a baby on August 8, 2008. She is married to Matthew Connlin. Email: rewatche@hotmai.com.

Ben Thompson (2002), Brooklet, GA, is married to Julie Sullivan Smith (2001), formerly in Elizabethtown, NJ, is now in Katy, TX, where he is the senior vice president/business aviation for World Fuel Services, Houston, TX. He is married to Wendy Szczechowski, a 1995 Georgia Southern MBA. Email: wendsyz@mac.com.

Jennifer Newcas Conlin (2001), formerly in Elizabethtown, NJ, is now in Katy, TX. She is married to Michael Szczechowski, a 1995 Georgia Southern MBA. Email: wendsyz@mac.com.

Michael E. Szczechowski (1995), formerly in Elizabethtown, NJ, is now in Katy, TX, where he is the senior vice president/business aviation for World Fuel Services, Houston, TX. He is married to Wendy Szczechowski, a 1996 Georgia Southern MBA graduate. Email: wszczech@wftcorp.com.

Wendy A. Szczechowski (1996), formerly in Elizabethtown, NJ, is now in Katy, TX. She is married to Michael Szczechowski, a 1995 Georgia Southern MBA. Email: wendsyz@mac.com.

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Christmas and other holidays are listed in the December issue of The Eagle Executive. Wonder what Drs. Denton and Bolen know that others don’t?
COBA’s Business Advisory Council

The College of Business Administration recently held regional Business Advisory Council meetings in Savannah (April 3) and Atlanta (May 6). The regional meetings provide an update and planning opportunity for Council members on the College’s strategic plan, presented by Dean Ron Shiffler, marketing plan, presented by Associate Dean Susan Williams, and financial resource plan, presented by COBA Development Officer Linda Wilke. Advisory Council President Lee Tompkins updated council members on plans for the Annual Fall Meeting, to be held in Statesboro on September 26, the weekend of the Georgia Southern–Wofford game.

Spring Commencement

On Saturday May 10, 2008, Georgia Southern held its spring graduation exercises at Paulson Stadium honoring more than 2,393 graduating students, one of the largest graduating classes on record. Twenty-four percent of those graduating came from COBA and CIT. A remarkable commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson preceded the commencement address by Georgia U.S. 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2008 University Alumni Awards Dinner

Two College of Business Administration graduates were among ten awardees recognized at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner held April 5 in the Nessmith-Lane ballroom with Terry Harvin, president, the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association, presiding. Olivia Suggs Flanagan (COBA, accounting systems, 1968) received the College of Business Administration Alumna Award and Matthew H. Janofsky (COBA, information systems, 1984) received the College of Information Technology Award, both presented by Ron Shiffler, dean of COBA and acting dean of CIT, after dinner and music presented by Karla Qualls.

Olivia S. Flanagan, recipient of the COBA Alumna Award, is a native of Butler, Georgia, a small town west of Macon, where she grew up playing basketball on a state championship team and learning bookkeeping in her father’s Ford dealership. She began her career as an accountant with Arthur Andersen and became a tax manager for Cousins Properties, Atlanta, before joining Bristol Development Corporation, a commercial real estate development firm in 1977 and later serving as a vice president and manager of her own company, Flanagan and Waycaster Construction, until her retirement in 2000. She has been a member of the COBA’s Business Advisory Council since 1988. Olivia is an excellent golfer and has served as president and board member of The Georgia Women’s Golf Association and serves on the women’s tournament, finance, and handicap committees for the Georgia State Golf Association and volunteers as a golf rules official. She is an ex-officio member of the board of Georgia Golf Hall of Fame, and a member of the Doublegate and Stonebridge Country Clubs. Having lived in Atlanta for 45 years, Olivia has just recently moved to Albany.

Matthew H. Janofsky, recipient of the CIT Alumni Award, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, moving with his family to Gainesville, Georgia, at a young age. After high school, Matt gained employment as a bank teller before enrolling at Georgia Southern with the idea of a finance degree. Active in the Marketing Society and president of Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Matt enjoyed college life, learned to fish, and became interested in computers. He earned a BBA degree in information systems in 1984 and began his career with Unisys programming teller machines.

In 1990, he joined COIN Banking Systems, Inc. and, later, became an independent contractor for Altitel, BellSouth, Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, GE Capital Corporation, UPS, and The Home Depot. Then, in 2004, Matt joined a new company, Gladiator Technology Services, a division of Jack Henry and Associates, as vice president for application development, where he presently serves as manager of the development department and oversees Ivan Internet Security Correlation Engine, the system that monitors malicious internet traffic targeted at community banks’ computer systems.

Throughout his career, Matt has maintained close ties with the College of Business Administration and the IS program. He has been a regular participant at Information Systems reunions, serves on the Information Systems steering committee, and has underwritten the Matthew Janofsky Scholarship for IS majors for more than ten years. His proudest contribution to the University will come next fall when his son, Michael, will enter Georgia Southern as a freshman.

Veteran Banker Honored

In 1970, became president of the bank in 1974, and served as chair of the board in 1991 of what is today a vibrant, growing community bank holding company with 79 bank employees and $380 million in assets. Frank Rozier, chair of the Board of Directors of the bank and FMB Equibanc, Inc. holding company for the bank, presented a Resolution of Appreciation commending his 40 years of service, retirement from active board service, and election to director emeritus at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Bank on April 24.

COBANs Make 40 Under 40 List

(left to right) Bill Howard, president, Claude Howard Lumber Company; Vivian Myers, accountant, Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon; and Rod Williams, partner, Dabbs-Williams General Contractors received the “40 Under 40” recognition by the Business Report & Journal.” Vivian received her accounting degree from Georgia Southern in 1993, while Bill and Rod received construction degrees with minors in business in 1992 and 1993, respectively. Congratulations to these honorees!”