Welcome, Dr. Brooks A. Keel!!

From humble beginnings . . . our 12th president in 103 years

Dr. Keel is a native of Augusta, and graduate of two University System institutions. He earned his bachelor of science in biology and chemistry from Augusta State University. Ph.D. in reproductive endocrinology from the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, and post-doctorals at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, and University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Vermillion.

He has served on numerous boards, including the American Board of Bioanalysis, American Association of Bioanalysts Board of Registry, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Southeastern Universities Research Association, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education, and was recently appointed to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce’s Emerging Technology and Research Advisory Committee.

Dr. Keel is married to Tammie K. Schalue, director of laboratories, Heartland Center for Reproductive Medicine, Omaha, NE.

Dr. Schalue earned undergraduate and masters degrees in animal science with emphasis in reproductive physiology at the University of Missouri, and her doctorate in reproductive physiology with emphasis in molecular biology at the University of Florida, including post-doctoral training in obstetrics and gynecology there.

In 1996, Schalue developed and directed the pre-implantation genetic diagnostic program at Wesley Medical Center, University of Kansas School of Medicine. She became director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine Laboratories at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1998 and later assumed the role of director of laboratories at the Heartland Center for Reproductive Medicine.

In their free time, Brooks and Tammie enjoy underwater photography.

Welcome, Drs. Brooks Keel and Tammie Schalue.

The new degree program will qualify graduates for both advanced academic and industry positions in the region. Nationally, only a limited number of universities offer such a degree, and existing doctoral programs are unable to meet current demand. Those entering academe will be able to teach in logistics fields to help meet the increasing demand. Those entering industry will be qualified as consultants and analysts to help develop Georgia’s preparedness to enhance the logistics and transportation industry cluster.

The Ph.D. program will initially be delivered through traditional course work and research in the College of Business Administration. Six new faculty members will be added as the program matures: a director and professor in 2009, three new professors in 2010, and three in 2011. All faculty participating in the Ph.D. program will hold terminal degrees in the appropriate field and be qualified to mentor doctoral students.

The program will require 60 credit hours, based upon a master’s in business from an AACSB-accredited institution and 78 hours for students not holding a current MBA. Course work in the degree is expected to take approximately two years with a third year for the dissertation. Students will be exposed to a broad range of business functions, as well as the role of logistics and transportation in the global firm. They will be offered a minor in a supporting area, such as marketing, information systems, or operations management. These supporting areas should broaden appeal and offer flexibility in securing positions in industry.

The program will begin with six students, doubling in the next three years, reflecting the diversity and demographics of the state and region.

Since 1999, the student-centered university known for academic distinction has evolved to record enrollment of 19,086 students, record SAT scores for entering freshmen, and Carnegie doctoral research university status.

For Georgia Southern, the Grube era has been transformational. The campus, visions, programs, expectations, performance, and results have expanded dramatically. We see evidence in annual compound growth rates for enrollment revenue, 6.2 percent; endowments, 7.5 percent; athletic support, 5.9 percent; and regional economic impact, 10.5 percent; all measured favorably against the 2.3 percent compound growth rate for state appropriations over the ten-year Grube tenure.

For COBA, the period is reflective of a vision of new programs, including founding of the School of Economic Development, the regional economic development major, the forensic accounting minor and emphasis in the MAcc, launching of the WebMBA®, achieving national ranking in logistics, and, finally, Regents’ approving Georgia Southern’s first Ph.D. program, a doctorate in logistics and supply chain management.

“There is always more to be done. The great challenge is to preserve the culture of student respect,” Grube concludes.
A Message from Dean Shiffler

IN TRANSITION—code words for “change”—is an appropriate way to describe Georgia Southern University at the moment.

We recently completed a search for a new president, Dr. Brooks Keel from LSU, whom we will be welcoming to campus starting in January. We said goodbye to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Bleicken, who was named president of Armstrong Atlantic State University. And we recently hired new head football and basketball coaches for the Eagles.

We are in the midst of profound change in our society as well. The Great Recession is over . . . or is it? State budgets are down and unemployment is up. We have more students, yet fewer resources with which to provide services.

Times like these present challenges to be sure, but also offer opportunities for COBA faculty, staff, and alumni to shine as experts in their fields. Faculty members have participated in forums in Statesboro and Dublin to explain the financial crisis. They have written columns for the print media and been interviewed by newspapers and television reporters, and, on campus, one of our faculty, Dr. Trey Denton, chaired the presidential search committee.

As a business school, we expect change to occur whether it is a change in our economy or a change within our own University. We embrace change and look forward to the new ideas that arise when challenges occur.

One challenge that we are facing amongst all of this change is having to operate on a much smaller budget and we need your help.

We appreciate the support and loyalty of our COBA alumni. Still, you are somewhat of an enigma. Lewis Stewart (see his column below) faithfully writes notes to you and keeps up with you. When we mail out these Eagle Executives, most are delivered. Few are returned for bad addresses. That is because Lewis constantly updates our alumni database.

The comments you write back to Lewis and the statements you make to me are almost always positive about Georgia Southern and your experience on campus. Most universities would be envious of our record keeping and most cannot match the enthusiasm of our alumni, except in one area—annual contributions back to COBA. We have about 18,000 COBA alumni. About a thousand of you have the Eagle spirit and donate to Georgia Southern (although not necessarily to COBA), and we thank you very much!

For the rest of you, what can WE do to help YOU catch the Eagle spirit? Other schools—our peers and competitors—have much higher contribution rates from their alumni, yet we seem to have happier and more satisfied alums than they do. Change is upon us—will you be part of the solution we need to move our college forward?

Rather than being vague, let me tell you what we would like you to do. Contribute $50 a year to COBA by joining the Eagle Executive Society. That’s it. Not $100; just $50. Fill out the Blue Card form on page 15, and send it to us. Or, go online to our COBA website, http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/eagleexecutive/eexmembership.htm.

Change is occurring on campus at Georgia Southern. Will you join us in changing your attitude about contributing to COBA? Let’s start a new era with a new president by showing him that COBA alumni can be counted on to support their college. Please join the Eagle Executive Society.

Ronald E. Shiffler, Dean

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from the ‘Boro!

When I arrived in the ‘Boro in the Fall of 1970, Georgia Southern had about 5,700 students. In 1979, when Dean Gooding arrived and we issued the first Update, a one page predecessor of the Eagle Executive, we began keeping up with School of Business alumni. We discovered alumni were not always faithful in supporting their school even when “their business successes surely justified it.”

Dr. Leo Parrish once said he felt an obligation to support his college, Georgia Tech, even though the amounts were not very large and wondered why our alumni did not feel an obligation to support Georgia Southern. We reflected how my MBA alma mater, Texas Tech, has a very high percentage of alumni contributors, especially to its College of Business. While some Texans have oil money, there are also a lot of small dust-covered towns in West Texas, and Georgia is not much different. Leo always said he felt guilty when he did not make at least a small contribution to Tech. I understand!

Now that we have more than 19,000 students at Georgia Southern, my concern is not how much our COBA folks contribute—more is generally better than less—but the percentage of our alums who contribute to and participate in the vast array of COBA programs. Those of you in the real world know how it operates. Please call, e-mail, or write me or Dean Shiffler as to how we can increase alumni participation so that more alums in the future will share a greater responsibility in supporting their college.

The main reason I stay involved in keeping up with alums is I am interested in the careers our grads have followed, including the many, many successful folks who like to shout “Whose House—OUR House” at athletic events. If this is really “Our House,” shouldn’t more of us take part in supporting an institution that has been, and probably still is, so responsible for at least part of the success we continue to enjoy?

I do hope more of you will send in your blue cards letting me know where you are and what you are doing. If you do not have a blue card handy, email is always an easy option: lstewart@georgiasouthern.edu.

Lewis M. Stewart, Alumni Editor
Department News

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Risk management and insurance scholarships of $1,000 each were presented to Tyler Dillon and Mallory Mitchell, from the Atlanta Claims Association, Rahim Mawji from the Atlanta Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Society, and Candace Fullmore from the Paul Kidd scholarship fund, during Financial Services Day.

Jim Davis, director of Office of Publications & Faculty Research Services, spoke to the Savannah Exchange Club on the economy, outlook, and federal reserve policy.

Information Systems

Manoucr Tabatabaei, associate professor, served as track chair for 2009 Decision Science Institute International Conference in Nancy, France.

Thomas Case, chair, was recognized for FA-24 telecommunications systems program contributions by the Fort Gordon Combatant Commanders in the Global War on Terrorism.

The annual IS Reunion featured Board of Advisors member Angela Bland’s presentation, “Effective LinkedIn Profiles,” and included alums Scott Burns, Deborah Champion, Samantha Grovenstein Lee, Mark Metzler, James Smith, Dan Ricks, Joey Reeves, Cindy Tierney, and Jason Williams.

SAP® America recently recognized the first five IS majors to receive certification. The newly certified students are Benjamin Whitehead, Andre Hill, Kevin Futo, Samantha O’Brien, and Olu Ojo.

Management, Marketing, & Logistics

John Leaptrott and Mike McDonald, professors, received the Best Paper Award in the Ethics & Behavioral Studies Track at the Fall 2009 Academic and Business Research Institute Conference held in Orlando for their paper, “The Conflict Between Work and Family Roles: The Effects on Managers’ Reliance on Information Sources in Dealing with Significant Workplace Events.”

David Shepherd, director of our Center for Sales Excellence and executive director of the University Sales Center Alliance (USCA), hosted the fall USCA directors’ meeting at Georgia Southern. The USCA is an alliance of the 13 leading sales programs in the country. Each member university has a dedicated sales center or institute and is accredited by the Professional Society for Sales and Marketing Training. Attending directors included Universities of Akron, Ball State, Baylor, Illinois State, Indiana, Kennesaw State, Northern Illinois, Ohio, Toledo, Western Kentucky, and William Paterson.

School of Accountancy

Leslie Higgins, associate professor, has passed all four parts of the CPA exam. She is submitting licensing application through the Georgia Society of CPAs.

School of Economic Development

William A. Amponsah, associate professor, joined Dr. Giorgia Giovannetti of the European University Institute, et al., in Florence, Italy, in presenting a global financial crisis report at the European Commission Conference in Brussels, Belgium. He presented two papers along with a portion of the final report launched during the European Development Days, Stockholm, Sweden.

The Economics Club continued its Peer Financial Counseling program through the financial aid office with presentations of “Making It on a College Budget and Staying on Good Terms: Credit and Debt” to more than 100 students at Campus Club, the First Year Experience program, and Delta Sigma Pi.

Michael Reksulak, associate professor, has keynoted the Downtown Statesboro Rotary Club, Corporate Leadership Council, and Center for Excellence in Teaching with presentations on health-care markets, business ethics, and classroom management, respectively, and was interviewed by the Statesboro Herald, Savannah Morning News, and Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Sahar Bahmani, assistant professor, and Donna Fisher, associate professor, presented “Understanding the Current Recession and Its Global Impact” and “Pros and Cons of the Team Learning Approach,” respectively, at the Gulf Coast Economics Association Economics Conference in Savannah.

Donna Fisher was guest of Dr. Malik Watkins on his radio show, “Taking Ownership,” discussing her recent “Business in Savannah” article and upcoming trip to Botswana.

SED hosted economics alumni Jolie Brant, Jackie Connor, Joseph Cowart, and Shaeell Wilson in a panel discussion during Homecoming Week.

Price Elected to Executive Committee of CSAB

Barbara Price, professor, has been elected vice president of the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, CSAB, which accredits programs in computer science, information systems, software engineering, and information technology.

CSAB, a federation of the Association for Computing Machinery and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society, is the lead society within the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, ABET, for accreditation of programs in computer science, information systems, software engineering, and information technology.

Officers and executive committee members elected at the October CSAB annual meeting in New Orleans to serve along with Dr. Price, also a member of the executive committee of the Computing Accreditation Commission for ABET, included President Stephen B. Seidman, dean, College of Science, Texas State University, San Marcos; Secretary-Treasurer Curtis A. Carver, Jr., vice dean for education, United States Military Academy, West Point; and, Past President Patrick J. Walsh, IBM project executive, UK. They will serve two-year terms from 2009–2011.

Sibbald Heads BBRED

Edward H. Sibbald, director of the Center for Excellence in Financial Services, which accredits regional economic impact analyses, feasibility studies, and surveys. Recent economic impact studies include Effingham Water and Sewer Extension project; Evans Memorial Hospital, Claxton; Georgia Southern University; Georgia Southern’s Summer Enrollment; Pilgrim’s Pride Plant Closure, Douglas–Coffee County region; and Savannah Economic Development Authority Property Tax Abatements.

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Bureau Analyst Benjamin McKay and Business Manager Joy West have recently completed the sixth semi-annual survey of businesses and consumers. The holiday survey measures consumption and spending expectations in the Coastal Empire and Low Country area and is available at www.bbred.org. BBRED is also reviewing and analyzing data for an upcoming publication on real estate valuation trends, the 2010 Economic Outlook, and contracted impact studies within the region.

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
#4 100 percent of your contribution is used
#3 Covering basic expenses

#2 Leverage

Many employers have matching gift programs that work like this: You make a contribution to COBA, and your employer matches it dollar-for-dollar (or more!). This is a great way to double the impact (size) of your gift—leverage!

Stay tuned for Reason # 1.

Leverage

Stay tuned for Reason # 1.

Leverage

Stay tuned for Reason # 1.
2009 Scholarship Recipients

Freeman Business Scholars

Alyssa Orairec
Landon Latham
Kart Righy
Ben Woods

Dixie Crystals Scholars

Katie Carter
Lisa Pierce
Cam Randall
Greg Vickers

Paul LaGrone

Jessica L. Murry
Rachel A. Parrish
Kyle Randall
Ryan Lewis

White

WACO Fire & Casualty Insurance Scholars

Sarah Potter; Ryan Lewis; Justin Bradley; Mr. Bill Herring; Sierra Jimerson; and Amber Easterwood

Cox

Betta Gamma Sigma

Kidd

Recipients not Pictured:

Robert Morris: Robbie Ballard, Nick Rosenweig, and Danielle Sinclair
Priddy/Price: Matthew Burden and Walton Howard
Cox: Jessica Geiger
ACA: Hugh Vergara and Ashley Logan Gaff
Atlanta CPCU: Robert Brantley and Corrine Plumer
Kidd: Sean Brooks Kennedy, Jordan Johnstun, and Amy Turner (and PIA)
Knotts: Linda Carwell and Caitlin V. Gaines
Pickett/Garvin Scholarship: Cordia R. Simon
Janosky: Dennis J. Luong and Aaron D. Rosenbaum
Giacomo: Andrew Kevan Sears
Georgia Retail Association: Stephanie Ellen Vangroo and Mair Elizabeth Ryan
Charettes: JoAnna Maria Kyser and Jessica L. Perdue
SHRM: Rachel Marchella Payne and Jasmine Marie Lightning
Peacock: Elena J. Bencini
Lundstrom: Lea Garvey

If you would like to support COBA's scholarship programs, please contact
Dean Ron Shiffler, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration,
P. O. Box 8002, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002, phone (912) 478-COBA.
Georgia Society of CPAs Presents Chair of AICPA

Mr. Ernest A. Almonte, auditor general, State of Rhode Island and chair, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, New York, NY, spoke to Georgia Southern faculty, staff, and students at the Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center on September 16, 2009. In his leadership role as chair of AICPA, Mr. Almonte is responsible for the Institute’s mission of representing CPAs before government, regulatory, and rule-making bodies; promoting high-level uniform certification and licensing standards nationwide; assuring integrity, objectivity, competence and professionalism throughout the industry; and implementing training and continuing education strategies for professional members.

Under his leadership, the AICPA Strategic Plan has become a blueprint for success, underscoring the Institute’s commitment to enhancing resources, information, and leadership for CPAs.

Mr. Almonte is a certified public accountant, certified financial forensics, certified government financial manager, certified information technology professional, and certified fraud examiner. Prior to his current position, he served as chair of the AICPA finance, audit, and government committees.

As keynote speaker for the Southeast Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs program, he led a very informative and spirited lecture to a packed auditorium.

The highlight of the academic year in the College of Business Administration, “Lift As We Climb,” Mr. Almonte’s keys to success included humility for listening to others, curiosity for understanding, and veracity for doing it right the first time; and finally, his contrast of the reserve capacity of a reservoir with the dynamics of a river offered insight into dealing with changing environments.

Mr. Almonte holds bachelor of science in business administration and master of science in taxation degrees from Bryant University, Smithfield, RI, along with program certifications for senior execs in government and innovations in governance from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He serves on the Department of Defense Audit Committee, the Government Auditing Standards Committee, and has been past chair of the Rhode Island Society of CPAs, Rhode Island Intergovernmental Audit Forum, and National State Auditors Association.

The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants is the professional organization for CPAs in Georgia. Its purpose is to promote the study of accountability, provide continuing professional education, maintain high ethical and work standards, and offer information about accounting issues to the practice, industry, government, and education membership as well as the general public.

The School of Accountancy works with Southeast Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs to invite executives to speak to students to illustrate the vast array of opportunities that exists for accounting graduates. “Such events rank among students’ favorite programs,” said Jill Lockwood, SOA director. “Students hear about the accomplishments of these executives and the stories of challenges, perseverance, and success,” she added.

“The students, faculty, and staff enjoy these programs. They have become a highlight of the academic year in the College of Business Administration,” Lockwood concluded.

Students Meet Textbook Author

The Gulf Coast Economics Association hosted its fifth annual conference in November at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront. Economics professionals from across the country met submitting papers, presenting lectures, discussing important economic topics, and learning of new developments in the profession. The two-day conference was designed to present an opportunity to interact with colleagues and share information. Attending from Georgia Southern’s School of Economic Development were professors Sahar Bahmani, Greg Brock, Donna Fisher, Constantine Ogboblin, and Michael Reksulak, along with students Josh Flores and Caleb Tucker.

Keynote speakers for the conference included N. Gregory Mankiw, professor of economics at Harvard University, former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, and author of the #1 selling economics textbook, Principles of Economics, now in its 9th edition and used by COBA students; Robert E. Hall, professor of economics at Stanford University, senior fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution, and incoming 2010 president of the American Economic Association; and, Alan S. Blinder, professor of economics at Princeton University, founder and co-director of Princeton’s Center for Economic Policy Studies, and a former vice chair of the Federal Reserve Board, member of the Council of Economic Advisers, and vice president of the American Economic Association.

COBA’s Student Advisory Board

The Corporate Leadership Council is now known as the COBA Student Advisory Board and has expanded its mission to include leadership and service to enrich the academic experience of COBA undergraduates. Members serve as ambassadors and represent COBA at a variety of events, including special events on- and off-campus.

A new Business Honors Program offers business-specific honors courses to a wider spectrum of high-ability students providing extracurricular activities engaging students, faculty, and business leaders outside the classroom. Business Honors students are reading current business books and participating in discussions hosted and facilitated by faculty and business leaders.

Following the Corporate Leadership Council’s footsteps, two new programs, Business Honors and COBA Student Advisors, offer promise for enhancing the academic opportunities and learning experiences of our highest-potential business majors.

COBA Golf Tournament

The 2010 COBA Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 14, 2010, at Forest Heights Country Club. The morning flight will begin with registration at 7:30 and shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be served in the Clubhouse ballroom beginning at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for both flights. The afternoon registration will begin at 1:00 p.m., shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. with a driving range available at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served in the Clubhouse ballroom beginning at 5:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., the awards ceremony will begin. For more information, or to register, please contact Lisa Williams, at lwms@georgiasouthern.edu.


Closest to the pin on #15: Steve Moss
Closest to the pin on #3: Russ Lanier
Low gross: Bubba Renfrow
Low gross, men: Bubba Renfrow
Low gross, women: Cheryl Aasheim
Closest to the pin on #3: Russ Lanier
Closest to the pin on #6: Steve Moss
Closest to the pin on #15: Mike Gary
Straightest drive on #1: Billy Harris

SAB members (front row, l-r) Sonia Curtis, Katie Carter, Alyssa Orucen, Mikal Lewis, (back row, l-r) Samantha Hairson, Cassandra Ophaneye, and Jessica Moye. Members not pictured are Meredith Barfield, Isaac Bell, Rahim Mawji, Samantha Smith, and Stephen Tatro.

A new Business Honors Program offers business-specific honors courses to a wider spectrum of high-ability students providing extracurricular activities.
Greeting from your new MBA Program director, Melissa Holland! Since my arrival in early July, I have experienced first-hand what my husband, Lee (FIN 1996), has always told me, “The Boro is a great place to be!” I am genuinely excited about our MBA program and its potential for the future. Even though we are bombarded with negative news about the economy and budget cuts across the state, the MBA programs are truly a bright spot. Enrollment in the traditional MBA program and the Georgia WebMBA® continues to increase in the economic downturn.

The MBA Program office is undertaking several new initiatives. We are exploring the possibility of making changes to our existing program and offering new programs to keep us competitive in an ever-changing market. We are experimenting with new avenues of marketing to promote our presence in Savannah and on-line. Recently, we have taken our first steps toward a sustained alumni outreach effort to keep MBA grads informed about COBA. Sites are now available on Linked In and Facebook in an effort to stay in touch. I would encourage all MBA alumni and friends to reach out and let us know how you are doing! You can find us on Linked In under the group name, “Georgia Southern COBA MBA Students and Alumni” or become a fan of our Facebook group, “Georgia Southern University MBA Program.” It is our mission to continue the tradition of excellence that has distinguished the MBA program for 40 years! We hope to hear from you soon!

The online Georgia WebMBA® program offered through six University System institutions—including Georgia Southern University—continues to grow with enrollment up more than 400 percent in recent years. Known for its accreditation, affordability, and commitment to student service, the Georgia WebMBA® is among the top-ranked online MBA programs in the nation. GetEducated.com has ranked the program in the top 20 “Best Buys” for quality and competitive pricing among programs accredited by AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The Web MBA® has appeared in U.S. News & World Report, Business Week online, The Princeton Review, Atlanta Business Chronicle, Georgia Trend, USA Today, and other regional and national publications. A recent study indicates students select the program based upon its availability, accreditation quality, program length, cost, and curriculum.

Executive Director Joe Bocchi has recently made panel presentation appearances representing the Georgia WebMBA® program at the Southern Business Administration Association conference, the Society for Marketing Advances conference, and the American Society for Training and Development’s Atlanta Business Advisory meeting.

To find out more about the Georgia WebMBA®, contact the College of Business Administration at http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/mba/.

For more information on any of our graduate programs, please contact COBA Graduate Studies, P. O. Box 8050 • Room 3300, Statesboro, GA 30460-8050, Phone: (912) 478-5767, E-Mail: mba@georgiasouthern.edu, Website: http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/mba/.

The MAcc Program reached new heights with an entering MAcc average GPA of 3.14 and an average GMAT Score of 507. Last year, 33.33 percent of graduating MAcc students taking the CPA Exam passed all 4 parts on the first attempt, eclipsing the national standard of 9.7 percent who pass the first time. For grads taking selected component parts of the exam, 69.2 percent passed auditing, 45.5 percent passed business and related subjects, and 68.8 percent passed law and tax regulation. The financial component data have not yet arrived from the reporting agency.

The MAcc program’s fourth annual Fraud and Forensic Accounting and Education Conference hosted by the Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business and sponsored by Porter Keadle Moore, LLP will be held May 13-15, 2010, at the J. W. Marriott Hotel, Atlanta.

The conference features a private screening of the Warner Brothers movie, The Informant, based upon the national bestselling book by the same name written by award-winning New York Times investigative reporter, Kurt Eichenwald. FBI Special Agent Robert Herndon, one of the key investigators in the movie, unravels international price fixing and corporate corruption in one of the nation’s largest, most powerful companies, Archer Daniels Midland. Special Agent Herndon will be one of the conference keynote speakers and will use the ADM case and the movie to explore the importance of character, leadership, and ethics in business.

Greg Van Zant received his bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from West Virginia University in 1984 and two masters—business administration and sport management—from Georgia Southern University. He is currently in his 16th season as the head baseball coach at West Virginia University, where he has elevated the Mountaineer baseball program into the national spotlight.

In his time as head coach, Greg has won the BIG EAST championships (regular season and tournament), earning an NCAA Tournament appearance and churning out 45 players who have been drafted or signed contracts with Major League Baseball organizations, including 24 pitchers. He has produced six All-Americans, the BIG EAST pitcher of the year, player of the year, two rookies of the year, 52 all-conference players, a first round draft pick, two major league players, and, most recently, an Olympian.

Greg has also been named BIG EAST Coach of the Year twice and the American Baseball Coaches Association East Region Coach of the Year. He has not disappointed in stressing the significance of the ever-important realm of academics. In 2001, he was inducted into the Williamson High School Hall of Fame. Greg and wife, Leslie, currently reside in Morgantown, WV.
Genevieve Ward

Genevieve Ward (ACCT, 2004) began her career with the Ernst & Young Audit Group, Toronto, in January 2005. Now a chartered accountant in the Valuation and Business Modeling Division of Ernst & Young’s Transaction Advisory Group, she was recently promoted to manager and will complete the last two of six courses and exam in the chartered business valuator designation for 2010.

While at Georgia Southern, Genevieve was on the soccer team. She still plays soccer in a competitive women’s league and, in her own words, is “still loving it.”

Genevieve is engaged to Mark Saravia, her teenage sweetheart, who also attended Georgia Southern. The May 29, 2010, wedding will be held at a local winery. They are planning to honeymoon in Tanzania, climb Mount Kilimanjaro, go on safari, and then, relax on the beach in Zanzibar. ♦

Jaclyn Cason (MGT, 2001) spent six years with Branch Banking & Trust Company (BB&T) in its Wealth Management Division covering the Georgia–South Carolina coastal region.

She is presently the manager of Frontier Communications, Statesboro, one of the nation’s largest rural, local exchange carriers with two locations in Georgia.

Jaclyn is a member of the Statesboro Rotary Club, Statesboro Service League, and Bulloch County’s Foundation for Public School Education, where she serves as treasurer. She is a graduate of the 2009 Leadership Bulloch class and a volunteer for Safe Haven and the Averitt Center for the Arts.

Jaclyn and her husband, Jody, reside in Statesboro, where they enjoy watching Georgia Southern Football. ♦

Tony Townley

Tony Townley (MGT, 1986), one of the “founding fathers” of Zaxby’s, is a stockholder in more than 40 Zaxby’s restaurants, and CFO of the company. He and his partner, Zac McLeroy, began Zaxby’s at Georgia Southern selling chicken across from Dingus MaGee’s in University Plaza. While at Southern, he was a charter member of the American Production Inventory Control Society (APICS) and, upon graduation, formed and served as CEO of Southern Mortgage & Lending Corporation, a mortgage originator for First Federal Savings & Loan and Bank of Georgia, Athens.

When he is not enjoying time with his wife, Elizabeth, or their three sons and daughter, Tony can be found taking in a good movie, or fishing, hunting, and enjoying the outdoors. ♦

Tim Beale

Tim Beale (MBA, 2004) serves as a distribution forestry coordinator for Dominion Virginia Power. His primary responsibility is to provide safe and reliable service by managing vegetation along utility easements.

Tim received a BS in forestry and wildlife from Virginia Tech before entering Georgia Southern’s MBA program. While attending Georgia Southern, he was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society as well as Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society.

Tim worked from 1993-2006 for Savannah Electric as a forester and from 2006-2008 as a forestry and right of way specialist for Georgia Power. While in Georgia, he was past president and a board member of the Georgia Vegetation Management Association.

Tim started working for Dominion Virginia Power in 2008. Since moving to Virginia, he has been selected to serve on York County Historical Museum Board. Tim and his wife, Melanie reside in Seaford, VA. ♦

T. Shane Mayes

Shane Mayes (FIN, 1999) is currently a partner in the law firm of Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP, in Marietta. Following graduation from Georgia Southern, Shane attended Wake Forest University School of Law in Winston-Salem, NC.

Shane is a member of Moore Ingram Johnson and Steele’s Civil Litigation Department. He focuses his practice on all aspects of business and employment litigation and general liability.

In addition to maintaining a challenging and busy law practice, Shane makes time to give back to his community. He regularly accepts pro bono cases and serves on the boards of directors of two nonprofit organizations: MUST Ministries, Inc., and SafePath Children’s Advocacy Center, Inc.

Shane is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia currently serving on the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Division. ♦

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Tim Beale

Tim Beale (MBA, 2004) serves as a distribution forestry coordinator for Dominion Virginia Power. His primary responsibility is to provide safe and reliable service by managing vegetation along utility easements.

Tim received a BS in forestry and wildlife from Virginia Tech before entering Georgia Southern’s MBA program. While attending Georgia Southern, he was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society as well as Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society.

Tim worked from 1993-2006 for Savannah Electric as a forester and from 2006-2008 as a forestry and right of way specialist for Georgia Power. While in Georgia, he was past president and a board member of the Georgia Vegetation Management Association.

Tim started working for Dominion Virginia Power in 2008. Since moving to Virginia, he has been selected to serve on York County Historical Museum Board. Tim and his wife, Melanie reside in Seaford, VA. ♦

T. Shane Mayes

Shane Mayes (FIN, 1999) is currently a partner in the law firm of Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele, LLP, in Marietta. Following graduation from Georgia Southern, Shane attended Wake Forest University School of Law in Winston-Salem, NC.

Shane is a member of Moore Ingram Johnson and Steele’s Civil Litigation Department. He focuses his practice on all aspects of business and employment litigation and general liability.

In addition to maintaining a challenging and busy law practice, Shane makes time to give back to his community. He regularly accepts pro bono cases and serves on the boards of directors of two nonprofit organizations: MUST Ministries, Inc., and SafePath Children’s Advocacy Center, Inc.

Shane is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia currently serving on the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Division. ♦
The 2009 homecoming cookout was held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium. Special thanks are extended to COBA’s Homecoming Committee, Jamie Lane, assistant director of MBA and MAcc Programs; Melissa Holland, director of MBA programs; Jerry Wilson, chair, Management, Marketing, & Logistics; Susan Williams, associate dean; and Lisa Williams, administrative specialist, for their help with this event and to Matt McGhee, Jan Grimes, and Linda Mullen for donating their parking spaces. Later that day, Georgia Southern’s Eagles were defeated by Furman’s Paladins. The final score was 30-22.
Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the COBA team presented below. We are excited about the talents and skills they bring to COBA. We presently account for the 2010-2011 academic year: an assistant professor of logistics and assistant professor of marketing searches in the Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics; an assistant professor of economics search in the School of Economic Development; and an assistant professor of accounting search in the School of Accountancy.

**Sahar Bahmani**
**Assistant Professor**
**School of Economic Development**

Sahar Bahmani, who originally came to Georgia Southern as a visiting professor, has taught for seven years. Her research interests include macroeconomics, monetary economics, and economic development. Hobbies include playing piano, tennis, working out, and spending time with her family and husband, who is a professor in the political science department at Georgia Southern.

**Joseph Bullington**
**Assistant Professor**
**Department of Information Systems**

Joe Bullington is making the transition to lecturer of information systems after serving as temporary instructor for the past four years. Prior to returning to teaching full time, he served as a network administrator and consultant for Tailored Business Systems. The professional experience he acquired in these roles has enabled him to bring a real-world perspective to the networking, network administration, and management information systems courses that he teaches. Dr. Bullington’s research interests include information assurance, the impacts of trust and distrust on online purchasing behaviors, and agent-based systems and societies.

**Melissa Holland**
**Director, MBA Programs**

Melissa Holland joins Georgia Southern University from The University of Georgia, where she was operations director for the Terry College of Business executive and evening professional MBA programs based in Atlanta. In that capacity, she had oversight of student services, alumni relations, and the planning and execution of several domestic and international residencies for the students, as well as managing the day-to-day operations of the department. Mrs. Holland was also very active in recruiting and admissions and participated in all aspects of strategic planning for the programs.

**Godfrey Gibbison**
**Director, School of Economic Development**

Godfrey Gibbison received his Ph.D. in economics from Virginia Tech in 1998. He also holds degrees from Iowa State University and The University of the West Indies. Dr. Gibbison has been on the faculty of Georgia Southern University since 2002. He was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in 2007. While at Georgia Southern, Dr. Gibbison made major contributions to the university through his work on the First Year Experience Task Force. He has also served as the Assurance of Learning coordinator for the College of Business Administration and implemented the online masters of science in applied economics offered by the School of Economic Development.

In 2008, he received the Award of Excellence for Contribution to Instruction, recognizing his contribution to the development of instruction at Georgia Southern. Dr. Gibbison was awarded the W. A. & Emma Lou Crider Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching presented by the College of Business Administration in 2006, and the Charles R Gibbs Award of Excellence, also presented by the College of Business Administration, in 2004.

Dr. Gibbison has consulted with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Jamaica.

**Mikelle Calhoun**
**Assistant Professor**
**Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics**

Mikelle A. Calhoun received her Ph.D. in international business and management from the Stern School of Business at New York University. She comes to Georgia Southern from Ohio State University. She received her BA in communications studies from Pennsylvania State University, MA in speech communications from the University of Minnesota, and a joint juris doctorate and master of business administration degree from the University of North Carolina. Before entering academia, Dr. Calhoun was a commercial litigation attorney and civil district court master in Dallas, TX.

As an attorney, Dr. Calhoun worked with senior executives of international firms and Fortune 500 companies on various litigation matters that exposed her to a variety of complex business issues. She worked with two law firms in Dallas, TX, achieving partner status at the second firm before she started her own firm.

In her assistant judge role, Dr. Calhoun presided over many corporate disputes—adding to her experience with, and understanding of, the impact of a variety of corporate decisions and events. In addition to teaching international business courses, Dr. Calhoun’s research interests pertain to issues facing multinational firms trying to operate successfully across very different markets. Specifically, she analyzes the challenges of being a foreign firm and the contextual problems of corruption and country risk.

Welcome to Georgia Southern and Statesboro, Dr. Calhoun and daughters, Terra and Shea.

**Jerry Wilson**
**Chair, Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics**

Jerry Wilson received his DBA from the University of Memphis in 1989. He has been on the faculty of Georgia Southern University since 1988, was awarded tenure in 1993, and was promoted to professor in 1999. While at Georgia Southern, Dr. Wilson was instrumental in developing and securing approval for the logistics and intermodal transportation major within the College of Business Administration. This program began accepting students in the Fall of 1993 and now graduates more than 100 students each year. He is also currently serving as the interim director of the new Ph.D. program in logistics and supply chain management.

Dr. Wilson received the Maxwell Powell Award in 2000, recognizing his career contributions to Delta Nu Alpha and to logistics and transportation education. In 2001, he was presented with an Eagle Award, given annually at the Operation Stimulus Conference in Denver by the Colorado Transportation Community to outstanding educators in the fields of transportation and logistics.

Dr. Wilson has developed and presented professional development programs for the Port of Singapore Authority and the Singapore Port Institute and consults regularly to industry in the area of transportation. Most recently, he conducted a strategic analysis of the outbound transportation system for a large privately owned multi-plant manufacturer.

Jerry and his wife, Myron, reside in Savannah.
New Toys “R” Us Partnership

The Center for Retail Studies has been offering students the opportunity to develop the skills and experience through research, competitions, trade shows, retail stores, corporate offices, seminars, guest speakers, and mock interviews since 1989. A new partnership with Toys “R” Us, Inc., will further extend these development opportunities.

The company that defined branding by reversing the letter “R” in its name has entered a partnership with the Center to expand the visibility and awareness of both partners, including a Retail Career Fair, a Retail Education Week sponsor-ship, partnership website identification, internship and recruitment opportunities, class and lecture series, and student chapter of the Georgia Retail Association affiliations; each of these activities builds

and enhances the brand image of the partners.

The Toys “R” Us partnership with COBA’s Center for Retail Studies represents the company’s second national partnership. In the years to come, it has the potential to assist many highly talented COBA students pursuing careers in the retail industry.

Georgia Trend’s “40 under 40”

Georgia Trend’s annual “40 under 40” includes nominees from business, cultural fields, academics, and government leadership across Georgia. One of the best and brightest this year came from COBA: Lori Durden, co-owner of Tim Darden Construction and Building Design and area director of the Small Business Development Center.

White Collar Crime Lectures

Marty Bragg

Don Berez’s course, White Collar Crime, LSTD 3630, is one of the ten courses that make up the Fraud and Forensic Accounting program. The course examines the U.S. criminal justice system and its response to the escalating incidence of white-collar crime, including topics related to understanding human behavior, theories of crime causation, organizational crime, occupational crime, and the constitutional rights of white-collar criminals.

Guest speakers for the course this fall included Marty Bragg, United States probation officer, Southern District of Georgia, speaking on federal sentencing guidelines; Marjorie Maguire-Krupp, Institute of Internal Auditors, addressing internal audit and white collar crime; Lt. Wayne McKinney, Georgia Southern Office of Public Safety, explaining computer voice stress analysis; IRS Special Agent Lisa Holtz, IRS Criminal Investigations, discussing polygraph use in investigations; and, U. S. Secret Service Special Agents William Griffin (ACCT, 2000) and Brent Rotho-

concentration by taking additional graduate courses, including fraudulent financial reporting, fundamentals of computer forensics, fraud and society, expert witnessing, and forensic accounting capstone. The five undergraduate courses are a prerequisite to the five-course forensic concentration in the MAcc program.

The Princeton Review Listing

For the fourth time, Georgia Southern University’s College of Business Administration has been recognized by The Princeton Review, in its “2010 Edition: The Best 301 Business School,” which identifies Georgia Southern’s MBA program as one of the best in the country.

The Princeton Review does not rank on a single hierarchical list or identify one business school as best overall. “We chose the 301 schools based on our opinion of their academic programs and offerings, as well as our review of institutional data we collect from the schools,” explains Robert Franek, senior vice president of publishing for the Review.

The Review specifically spotlights the campus classes in Statesboro, graduate classes at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, and online courses in the Georgia WebMBA® program in its summary. Melissa Holland, director of Georgia Southern’s MBA programs, relates “Our MBA students specifically referenced their professors’ willingness to provide flexibility for working professionals.”

Eagle FastPitch

Local entrepreneurs had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas in front of a panel of entrepreneurs, investors, and faculty judges in the first ever Eagle FastPitch competition sponsored by COBA’s Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership. “The purpose of the Eagle Fast Pitch program is to identify promising local entrepreneurs and elicit community resources for starting new ventures and growing existing businesses,” explained Luke Pittaway, the organizer for the event, director of the Center and William A Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise at Georgia Southern.

The three categories of competition included student, faculty, and local entrepreneur with competition open to the Southeast Georgia region. Competitors received assistance in developing a three-minute pitch and a short business summary in addition to mentoring support. A cash prize and trophy were awarded to the winners of each category.

Erwin Williams, Savannah State University and Luke Pittaway, director, observe presenter Orjan Isackson, Georgia Tech Enterprise & Innovation Institute, along with an opportunity to meet prospective investors. Sponsors of the event included Joiner Anderson Funeral Home, Small Business Development Center, Southeastern Hospitality Services, Georgia Southern Research and Services Foundation, and Holiday Inn, Statesboro.

Public relations major James Kicklighter, Jameworks Entertainment, won top honors for most promising venture in the student competition. Kicklighter’s film, audio, and web design company has produced several documentaries including the upcoming “Land of Higher Peace,” a micro-budget film that has drawn attention in major circuits.

Winner of the Eagle FastPitch local entrepreneur award was Thomas Kollars, Jr., ProVector and Mevlabs Companies, which produce an economical and environmentally safe product for killing mosquitoes.

The faculty winner was Pamela Marsh, Geology and Geography Department, Georgia Southern, whose business plan offered hands-on environmental science education from fee-based shipboard marine, salt marsh, swamp, wetland, and mountain expeditions.

Judges deliberate entrepreneur presentations.

Jury members included Jim Williams, J. M. Williams Company, Swainsboro; Erwin Williams, Savannah State University; Larry Zaslavsky, Savannah Entrepreneurial Fellow; Brandon Blair, Statesboro 180 Fitness; Leonard Blount, Oconee Village Park, Lake Oconee; Doug Lambert, Southeastern Hospitality Services, Statesboro-Savannah; Laura Wheaton, Brown and Rountree, Attorneys, Statesboro; Bob Schwartz, retired professor; Craig Kronenberger, Elf Island Investment, Ron Medinger, Savannah Entrepreneurial Fellow; Don McCloskey, retired entrepreneur; Ray Wenig, Ariel Savannah Angels Partners; Bob Faircloth, retired executive; Marvin Rappaport, retired medical executive; and Kate Gary, Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce.

Judges for the event included Jim Williams, J. M. Williams Company, Swainsboro; Erwin Williams, Savannah State University; Larry Zaslavsky, Savannah Entrepreneurial Fellow; Brandon Blair, Statesboro 180 Fitness; Leonard Blount, Oconee Village Park, Lake Oconee; Doug Lambert, Southeastern Hospitality Services, Statesboro-Savannah; Laura Wheaton, Brown and Rountree, Attorneys, Statesboro; Bob Schwartz, retired professor; Craig Kronenberger, Elf Island Investment, Ron Medinger, Savannah Entrepreneurial Fellow; Don McCloskey, retired entrepreneur; Ray Wenig, Ariel Savannah Angels Partners; Bob Faircloth, retired executive; Marvin Rappaport, retired medical executive; and Kate Gary, Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce.

Eagle FastPitch

Jury members included Jim Williams, J. M. Williams Company, Swainsboro; Erwin Williams, Savannah State University; Larry Zaslavsky, Savannah Entrepreneurial Fellow; Brandon Blair, Statesboro 180 Fitness; Leonard Blount, Oconee Village Park, Lake Oconee; Doug Lambert, Southeastern Hospitality Services, Statesboro-Savannah; Laura Wheaton, Brown and Rountree, Attorneys, Statesboro; Bob Schwartz, retired professor; Craig Kronenberger, Elf Island Investment, Ron Medinger, Savannah Entrepreneurial Fellow; Don McCloskey, retired entrepreneur; Ray Wenig, Ariel Savannah Angels Partners; Bob Faircloth, retired executive; Marvin Rappaport, retired medical executive; and Kate Gary, Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce.

The Princeton Review
The Eagle Executive Society is an annual membership society focused upon building communication among COBA, its alumni, and friends. A $50 annual membership investment supports educational activities beyond the classroom, including travel scholarships, student engagement, and research. The Society’s funding is directed 100% to preparing the next generation’s business leaders. Members receive an Eagle Executive Society stock certificate, recognition in the Eagle Executive, and invitations to special events sponsored by the college. Charter membership renewals or new memberships for 2009 and 2010 are accepted online at https://touchpay.georgiasouthern.edu/eagleexecutive/. Or, call Karen Wells at 912-478-5050 for a membership form. All active members, including charter, new, and renewed, are acknowledged below. We appreciate your support.

**Deceased**

* New 2009 or 2010

Eagle Executive Society Members

Trip Addison*
Allen Akins
Shon G. Allbritten
William Ampsonah*
Mark H. Anderson
Carlos Aviles
Stephen W. Barber*
Perry C. Barnett
Rick Barr
Richard Alan Bean
Lovett Bennett, Jr.
Paul Bennett**
Donald Berez*
Ednilson Bernardes
W. Wayne Bissell*
Leonard H. Blount
William H. Bolen*
Thomas P. Bond, Jr.
William J. Bostwick
Edward S. Bowles
Esther B. Bowman
Richard J. Bowman
Richard Jorjor Bowman
Dale Braddy
Gregory J. Brock
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.
Adam S. Bryant
Bryan R. Burke
M. Albert Burke
Lisa Butler
Michael Calhoun
Don E. Callaway
Constance R. Campbell*
Jennifer A. Campbell*
Brenda S. Carter
Harry S. Carter
Johnny L. Carter, Jr.
Rosemary Carter
Tom Case
Richard J. Chambers
Donald W. Cioban
David T. Clayton
Wesley Stephen Cobb
James T. Coe
Doug Collins III
G. Gregory Colson
Lisa Cont-Bacon
Kerry H. Cotter III
Jack L. Culpepper, Jr.
W. Mike Cummings
Gordon E. Davis*
James E. Davis, Jr.
W. Austin Davis III*
Margot M. Dawkins
Barry W. Deal
Frances S. Deal

Julian I. Deal
Trey Denton, III
D. Morgan Derst
John Franklin Dismuke
Justin L. Dunn
Lori S. Durden
Jacqueline K. Eastman
Kevin L. Eastman
Olivia S. Flanagan
Leslie B. Fletcher
Sara Fountain
Peter L. Fraley
Lenny L. Gentry
Carl Gooding
Nathaniel Green
J. William Griffin
Linda G. Griffin*
William I. Griffins
Sara Jeanette Grimes
Mark D. Hanna*
Horace W. Harrell, Jr.
Larry F. Harrison
Charles Harter
Jack W. Hartley*
Mary F. Hazeldine
William D. Head
Nancy Herring
William T. Herring
William R. Hickman, Jr.
Jeremy Hinton
Melissa Holland*
James M. Hood
Donald D. Howard
Lee F. Howard, Jr.*
Angelia Huggins
Feruzan Irani*
Ori James
Matthew H. Janofsky
Jeanette K. Rice Jenkins
John Jennings
Lindsey D. Johnson, Jr.
Paul R. Johnson
Dennis F. Jones, Jr.
Jack P. Jones*
James M. Joyce
Russell T. Keen*
Julia Ann Kelly
Russell L. Kent*
William C. Kirby
Sean Micheal Knox
John F. Kohn
Brian Kramschuster
Jonathan Lafevers
Douglas H. Lambert
Jamie Lane
Josh Mathew Lane

John Leaptrott, Jr.
Samantha G. Lee
Buddy Lifty
M. Jill Lockwood
Lurie L. Lord
Misty Loughry
Sanford Loyd*
Carolyn Lukdadoo
David M. Luckie
Ronald A. Lundstrom**
Abby Lynes
Chandan Maitrani*
Todd Manack
Jimmy F. Marshall, Jr.
John R. Massey
William W. McCartney*
Lauren McCraw
Samuel A. McCuffie
C. William McGahee
Robert McGregor
William S. McLean II
John T. McManus*
Robert Melton
Matthew G. Mercer*
Cheryl T. Metrejean
Paul Metrejean
Bryce C. Mickler
Robert Mingleford, Jr.*
J. Lowell Mooney
Melanie B. Mosley
Steven E. Moss*
Linda Mullen
Maurice H. Nimmons, Jr.
Charles Nix
Lana Nix
Abbie Gail Parham
Leo G. Parrish III*
Luke Pittaway
James Pollak
Del E. Presley
Barbara A. Price*
Larry E. Price
Cindy H. Randall
James Randall
Stephen E. Rary
Gerald D. Reynolds*
Danny Keith Ricks
Patrick S. Risner
Charles G. Rogers
Stephen J. Rountree
Joseph Ruhl in*
Madeline Ruhland
Stephen M. Rutner*
Michael R. Sanders
Ryan T. Schneider
Mona F. Schofill

Louise S. Shackleford
Barbara Shiffler
Ron Shiffler
Edward Sibbald
Maria Sibbald
Ralph S. Sites, Jr.
Michael W. Skinner
Carole J. Smith
William R. Smith
L. Dwight Sneathen, Jr.
Brian E. Snell
Jean Carol Spoolstra
Asbury Stembridge, Jr.
Helen Stembridge
Charlene K. Stewart
Lewis M. Stewart
M. Scottie Stoddard
William N. Strawn, Jr.*
Jimmy Perry Summer, Jr.
Cathy Owens Swift
Thomas Tharpe
Rodney W. Thomas*
Thomas A. Thompson
Valerie A. Thompson
Joseph Tompkins
Lee Tompkins, Jr.
Kris Michael Trainer
F. Ward Trulock
Scott Tuten
Robert Verhey
Mark A. Weeks
Karen Wells*
William H. Wells
Joy West*
Wendy L. White
Linda S. Wilke
Kyle Williams
Richard S. Williams
Russell Williams, Jr.
Susan R. Williams
Lynda B. Williamson
Bonnie C. Wilson
Jerry Wilson
Steven J. Wilson*
Wendel H. Wilson
Jonathan Woodard
William Woolford
Kimberly Zell

* Membership by Gift
** Deceased

* New 2009 or 2010
2009 Professor for a Day

This year marked the third annual COBA alumni Professor for a Day event at Homecoming. Alumni professors shared their “real world” experiences, along with insights into various areas of expertise developed in their careers since their own college days. The guest professors stressed the importance of mastering the disciplinary content provided by regular professors as a prerequisite. Visiting professors were honored with an appreciation luncheon on campus. A special thanks to those who participated, including School of Accountancy John Lucht, audit partner, Smith & Howard CPAs, Atlanta; Brigadier General Les Smith, commandant, Army CBRN School, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; James Rivers, staff accountant, McMullan & McMullan CPAs, Macon; Management, Marketing, & Logistics Eddie Trizzino, home financial officer, Atlanta Center of Restorative Dentistry, Atlanta; Nick Propps, associate broker, Manack Properties, Statesboro; Dennis Jones, owner, Radio Jones LLC, Swainsboro and Dublin; Al Burke, financial advisor, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Statesboro; Brent Barbee, director of accounts, Joseph David Advertising, St. Simons; Mike Sanders, senior vice president, UBS Financial Services, Atlanta; School of Economic Development Steven Wilson, work ready regions coordinator, Governor’s Workforce Development Office, Atlanta; Brittany McElroy, financial advisor, AXA Advisors, Atlanta; Information Systems Cindy Tierney, chief information officer, Beazer Homes, Atlanta; and Matt Ringer, planning systems administrator, Global Sourcing and Planning Systems, Atlanta.

Hilsen Serves as SOA Executive in Residence

Scott Hilsen, attorney and partner, Alston and Bird, LLP, Atlanta, presented “The Psychology of Fraud” to the annual School of Accountancy’s Executive in Residence program at Nessmith-Lane’s Performing Arts Center. Mr. Hilsen, a certified fraud examiner in the firm’s Special Matters and Investigations Steering Committee, often serves as special counsel for internal and governmental investigations and represents clients in securities and business litigation, class actions, derivative actions, merger & acquisitions, and shareholder disputes. He is the co-editor of Alston & Bird’s The Fraud Reporter, which features such issues as securities litigation, investigations, fraud risk management, and electronic discovery. Hilsen received his juris doctorate, cum laude, in 1993 from Georgia State University, where he was the managing editor of the Georgia State University Law Review. He received a BA in criminology and law from the University of Florida and an MBA from Georgia State University. He is a founder and co-chair of the Atlanta Bar Association’s securities and corporate litigation subsection and has been identified as a Law and Politics Rising Star and Georgia Super Lawyer.

COBANs Attend Braves Game


Fourth Annual Financial Services Day

The Center for Excellence in Financial Services, hosted its fourth annual Financial Services Day this year in conjunction with the University’s career fair. Fourteen speakers were included in three sessions: banking and credit unions; insurance, risk management, and financial planning; and real estate. Each session featured a panel discussion and question and answer session with company representatives—many of whom are alumni—in a town hall meeting style format. The sessions lasted about an hour and ran consecutively while students learned about career opportunities and the nature of work in each financial services sector. Many thanks to participants, including the banking and credit union panel of Darron Burnette from Sea Island Bank, Kelly Herrington from First Southern Bank, Joe Lanier from BB&T, and Bobby Michael from Core Credit Union; the insurance, risk management, and financial advisory services panel of Walt Aldred from Merrill Lynch, Ashley Hines Ellis from Blount, Burke, Wimberly, and Hendricks, Jack Greene from Northwestern Mutual, Rusty Holt and Jaime Emmers from New York Life, and Shannon Eaves Krantz from First Investors Corporation; and the real estate panel of Sam DiPollo from Prudential Kennedy Realty, Shannon Grindler from Coldwell Banker–Tanner Realty, Nick Propps from Manack Signature Properties, and Sherri Hinson from Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Welcome Back Students Day

Each year, COBA welcomes its new and returning students with free popcorn and soft drinks. This year, we would like to thank William Amponsah, Rachael Barrett, Don Berecz, Jim Davis, Troy Denton, Jackie Eastman, Godfrey Gibbison, Jan Grimes, Jeanette Hadden, Dena Hale, Mark Hanna, Chuck Harter, Mary Hazeldine, Melissa Holland, Feruzan Irani, Bob Jackson, Ann Kelly, Vicki King, Jun Liu, Ben McKay, Britt McKay, Eddie Metregean, Davin Miller, Lowell Mooney, Linda Mullin, Tom Noland, Cynthia Parrish, Cindy Randall, Paige Rutner, Dave Shepherd, Jake Simons, Dwight Sneathen, Mike Thomas, Carol Woller, Joy West, Jerry Wilson, Mildred Wilson, Bill Yang, and Jonathan Zhang for their help.

Welcome Back Students Day

Ed Sibbald addresses banking panel members Bobby Michael, Kelly Herrington, Joe Lanier, and Darron Burnette
Accounting

Erlee Halter Meyers (1995; Delta Sig), Newport, PA, is a financial analyst for the Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA. She is married to Robert James Meyers, IV. Erlee is also a coach for several PA Extreme Cheerleading squads. Email: emeyers11@hmc.psu.edu.

Bradley G. Collins (2007), Kathleen, is an officer in the SunMark Bank, Bonaire. He has been accepted in to the LSU Graduate School of Banking. Email: bgcollins1@gmail.com.

Jenna Lynn Green (2007; Macc 2008), Snellville, is a staff accountant with Porter Keadle Moore, CPAs, Atlanta. She recently passed the last section of the CPA exam. Email: jjgreen@pkm.com.

Kendra Z. Durrence (2008), Sylvania, is now a staff accountant with Reiser & Reiser, Savannah. Email: kzd3mstang@aol.com.

Justin J. Janney (2008), Statesboro, is an Accountant at Georgia Southern. Email: jjjanney@georgiasouthern.edu.

Economics

Alan Lane Rachels (1971), Marietta, has retired from the Georgia Department of Audits, where he had been a supervisor. He is married to Dottie Howell. Email: arach@bellsouth.net.

Joey H. Covart (1992), Statesboro, was recently elected to his third term as solicitor general for Bulloch County. He is married to Ellen Blocker, who has three degrees from the College of Education. Email: cowartje@bulloch.edu.


Finance

Paul M. Davis (1971), Grayson, has retired as Senior Director from Norfolk Southern Corporation after 36 years of service. He and his wife, Gail, plan to remain in Gwinnett County. Paul was the 1971 winner of The Wall Street Journal Award and has fond memories of his 4 years at Georgia Southern with Larry Price, Lewis Stewart, and many others in business and finance.

Salita R. Hill (1984), Savannah, a senior relationship manager with Wachovia Bank, recently graduated from Leadership Savannah in a ceremony at the Savannah Yacht Club.

Hamesh Khan (1988, MBA 1994), formerly in Pakistan, is now in Oakton, VA, where he is an international economist/financial analyst with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. Email: hamesh.khan@yahoo.com.

Don G. Shreley, Jr. (1994; MBA 1996), Atlanta, is the owner and vp of sales for BryTech, Inc., Smyrna. Email: dtsreley@brytechinc.com.

Cliff Wildes, Jr. (1996), Statesboro, vice president of First Southern National Bank, has graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at LSU. He is married to Emily Wynn, and they have two children, Pard and Wynn.

Ryan P. Lee (1996), Gainesville, is a senior review appraiser with the USDA Forest Service. He is married to Casey Smith, a 1999 Georgia Southern communications arts graduate, and they have one child, Sadie Bess, who was born April 15, 2009. Email: rplee@fs.fed.us.

Erik J. Blumenau (1997), Atlanta, is the controller for Global Net Access, LLC. He is married to Mende Brooker, a 1996 Georgia Southern recreational therapy graduate. Email: eblumenau@yahoo.com.

Carl Lee, Jr. (1999), Twin City, is the owner of Carl Lee’s Urban Fashion, Statesboro. He was one of our football team members. Email: cllashongs@hotmail.com.

John M. “Toby” Browne (2000), Savannah, is now an assistant vice president for the Savannah Bank. Email: toby.browne@savb.com.

Patrick S. Ludeman (2000), Atlanta, is now the financial project director for the Georgia Department of Revenue. He received his MBA from Georgia State in 2005. Email: patludeman@yahoo.com.

Matt L. DeLoach (2001), Savannah, is now an account executive with Rowve Supply Company. His wife is Jessica. Email: deloachmattire@yahoo.com.

Donna Kay Stroud (2001), Swainsboro, is a credit analyst for The Darby Bank and Trust Company, Vidalia. Email: dkstroud10@yahoo.com.

Michael Gilbert (2003), Macon, is the president of the Hazelt Trucking Company. He is married to Keni Strange.

Nicholas “Niko” Lombrau (2005), Atlanta, is the general manager of the Landmark Diner. He is also a chef and member for the American Culinary Federation. Email: technogod@hotmail.com.

Stacy “Shae” Whitaker (2006), Metter, is an accounting assistant for the Pineland Telephone Company. Email: swhitaker@pinelandtelco.com.

Nicholas M. Browner (2008), formerly in Lithuania, is now in Charlotte, NC, where he is a financial analyst at Lowe’s financial planning and analysis department in Mooresville, NC. He is completing his MBA at UNC-Charlotte. Email: nicholas.m.browner@lowes.com.

Leah Lewis (2008; MBA 2009), Jesup, is a law student in the Georgia State University College of Law. Email: leahlewis@hotmail.com.

Stephen M. Paris (2008), Savannah, is a financial consultant with The Heritage Group, Hinesville. He is engaged to Crystal Hoke, a 2007 Georgia Southern marketing graduate. Email: sparis1215@aol.com.

Leo “Ed” Thompson, Jr. (1974), Savannah, has “unretired” recently. He is now a co-manager of the new Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home in Savannah.

James L. Pound, Jr. (1985), Macon, is a medical sales consultant with Grassics/Stryker Spine. Email: lbpound98@yahoo.com.

Bill Barrett, Jr. (1990), Savannah, is a master firefighter for the City of Savannah Fire Department. Email: sfengco5@gmail.com.

Information Systems

T. Allen Madding (1986), Cumming, is now a consultant/project lead for Xcentric, Alpharetta. Email: allenmadding@bellsouth.net.

Jamie M. Ennis (2002), formerly in Pooler, is now on Daniel Island, SC, where she is the information engineer for Gov Solutions Group. She is married to Lennie Ennis, Jr. Email: jamie.ennis@comcast.net.

Michael P. Witherow (2002), Brunswick, is now the network systems engineer for MAP International. Email: patrickwitherow@gmail.com.

Matt Allison (2008), Ft. Benning, is a Lt. in the U.S. Army. He is a graduate of the Infantry Basic Officer Leader course and is awaiting orders to deploy. Matt is married to Jennifer Lockey, a 2005 Georgia Southern history graduate. Email: matt.allison@us.army.mil.

Brian C. Beasley (2008), Atlanta, is employed by the Georgia World Congress Center. Email: brianbeasley@gmail.com.

Logistics

Laura Allen Wittig (1992), formerly in Wahia, HI, is now in Colorado Springs, CO, where she is a supervisor, management support for the Dept. of the Army, Ft. Carson, CO. She is married to LTC Robert Wittig. Email: wittig.lauria@yahoo.com.

Travis E. Timms (2001), Savannah, the director of logistics for Gypsum Logistics, recently married Ashley Marie Lytken, a 2006 South University pharmacy graduate.

Paul K. Brown (2002), Ellabell, is a material supervisor for Gulfstream Aerospace, Savannah. He is currently working on the new business jet “G650.” His wife, Christy Stripling, is a 2002 Georgia Southern COE graduate. Email: paul.brown@gulfstream.com.

Bradley S. DeBardelaben (2002), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Tampa, FL, where he is a customer solution manager for Experide. Email: brad.debardelaben@gmail.com.

Matt Ater (2004), Atlanta, is an import agent with Expeditors International. Email: m8er8781@gmail.com.
Kyle Khadivi (2005), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Frisco, TX, where he is the customer logistics manager for Ryder Systems, Inc. [Ryder Supply Chain Solutions]. Email: k_khadivi@yahoo.com.

Douglas Marchand (2006), Savannah, is the logistics and operations manager for the IKEA Distribution Center, Port Wentworth. He is engaged to Amanda McBride, a 2006 Georgia Southern kinesiology graduate. A Spring 2010 wedding is planned.

Ian K. Brown (2008), formerly in De Pere, WI, is now in Stockbridge, where he is the driver business leader for Schneider National, Inc., Atlanta. He is the first COBA graduate to be recruited for the company’s five month training program in Green Bay, WI. Email: browni@schneider.com.

Keary Don Cuebos (2008), Statesboro, is the operations manager for Geneseo & Wyoming, Inc., Garden City. Email: cuebask@gmail.com.

Fletcher G. Lee (2008), Peachtree City, is a transportation analyst for Premier Transportation, Forest Park. Email: fletcherglee@gmail.com.

Jon L. Simpson (2008; Delta Sig), Kennesaw, is in his second year of law school at Mercer. He recently completed a clerkship at the Federal Highway Administration working on an upcoming transportation reauthorization legislation. Email: jonsimpson11@gmail.com.

Angelia Brown Datsen Stinton (1982), Irvine, CA, is the president and managing partner for Med Tech Partners. She is married to Steve Stinton. Email: angelia.stinton@gmail.com.

Jeff P. Pijpin (1993), formerly on Hilton Head Island, SC, is now in Albany, where he is the owner of Graphic X-pressions. He is married to Linda Cannon. Email: tpjippin@mchsi.com.

Thomas Reese (1991), Savannah, is now a sales associate with Cora Bett Thomas Realty and Associates.

Carolyn Marshall Dimino (1992), Scottsdale, is a staff accountant for the Padiera School. She is married to Chris Dimino.

Alison Smiley Hugi (1996), Statesboro, is the director of operations for the Industry Buying Group. Email: alisinside@aol.com.

Kervin B. Smith (1996), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Richmond Hill, where he is the owner of Smith Pool and Spa Services Company. He is married to Suzanne Thomas, a 1996 GA Southern management graduate. Email: suzannen4172@yahoo.com.

Ian Coletti (1997), formerly in Baltimore, MD, is now in Redmond, WA, where he is a senior project manager for Allegis Group Services, Kirkland, WA. Email: ian@pipermohr.com.

Matthew R. McGhee (1998), Dublin, a supervisor with J&J Oil Company, Sylvania, is engaged to Janet Marie Rahn, a 2003 UGA graduate.

Deanna Langston Cannon (1999), Marietta, has been an AMI teacher for six years and is now studying to become an SLI. She is married to John Adams. Email: deannacannon9@gmail.com.

Matthew Hall (2001), Savannah, is now a principal agent with Nationwide Insurance. Email: matthewmhall@hotmail.com.

Jeremie W. Lee (2001), Brooklet, who is employed by J.C.B., Inc., Pooler, is engaged to Nicole Francis Jernigan, a 1995 Ogeechee Tech graduate.

A. Glenn Young, Jr. (2001), formerly in HI, is now in DefRader, LA, where he is the foreign security forces transition team liaison officer at Ft. Polk, LA. His wife is Candace, and they have four children. Email: arthur.young3@us.army.mil.

Mark A. Simpson (2005), formerly in NH, is now in Durinwood, where he is an account manager for Miller Zell, Inc. Email: mark.simpson@millervoll.com.

Hanes Hillard (2006), Atlanta, is employed by SunTrust Bank.

Chris Braddy (2003), formerly in Soperton, is now in Tarrytown, where he is employed by the Peoples Bank, Lyons. Email: chris@pplblk.biz.

John William Brannen (2003), formerly in Swainsboro, is now in Midville, where he is the manager of the new Millen office of H&R Block. His wife is Donna Lisa. He is employed part-time as a bookkeeper for ATAC Services, Vidalia, and won an award for most “Peace of Mind” contracts sold in the region. Email: johnbrannen@gmail.com.

Gary S. Crosby (2004), Dacula, is the southern division HR parson for Belk, Southern Division, Buford. Email: stephen_crosby@belk.com.

Shana Perkins (2004), Statesboro, is the property manager for Southern Property Management Services. Email: shaanaperkins@yahoo.com.

Bradley M. Harrison (2005), formerly in Fayetteville, NC, is now in Avondale Estates, where he is the national credit manager for Single Source, Roswell. He is married to Rachel Verran.

Laurie Elizabeth Johnston (2005), formerly in Evans, is now in Millen, where she is the area sales manager for Belk in the Statesboro Mall. She is married to Cyril Anthony Fortier, IV. Email: Laurie_Fortier@belk.com.

Mark A. Simpson (2005), formerly in NH, is now in Durinwood, where he is an account manager for Miller Zell, Inc. Email: mark.simpson@millervoll.com.

Hanes Hillard (2006), Atlanta, is employed by SunTrust Bank.

Lydia Erin Towns (2006), Savannah, an associate agent with Randstad Work Solutions, Pooler, is engaged to Steven James Vernon, a graduate of the University of Birmingham, England.

Andrea Vara (2006), formerly in Lilburn, is now in Sandy Springs, where she is an inventory analyst for Alcon Cable, Atlanta. Email: vara_andrea@yahoo.com.

M. Burt Barto (2007), formerly in Columbus, is now in Suwanee where he is employed by Eagle Rock Distributing, Stone Mountain. He was on the baseball team for two seasons. Email: mbarto18@gmail.com.

Lindsey Armenton (2008), Marietta, is an administrative assistant-corporate development for Med Assets, Alpharetta. Email: larmenton@medassets.com.

Brittany N. Dixon (2008), Augusta, is the assistant manager of the Walgreens in Martinez. She is also pursuing a masters of public administration degree at Augusta State University.

Marketing

Donald B. Bland (1989), Trussville, AL, is the strategic account manager for Motion Industries, Birmingham, AL. He is married to Buffy Peters, a 1990 Georgia Southern COE graduate. Email: blanddon@hotmail.com.

Tiffanie Hampton (2003), Woodstock, is the director of recruiting for Locumtenens.com, Alpharetta. She is married to Matthew McNeal, a 2003 Georgia Southern graduate. They have a daughter, Taylor Anne, who was born on May 12, 2009. Email: tfham03@hotmail.com.

Adam J. Rahn (2003; MBA 2005), formerly in Springfield, is now in Guyton, where he is a licensed financial specialist for Wachovia Bank, Pooler. Email: adam.rahn@wachovia.com.

Jane Bazemore DeRossett (2003), formerly in Sylvania, is now in Palm Desert, CA, where she is employed by American Wine Making. Jane is married to Thomas DeRossett, and they have a daughter, Josie (15 mos.).

Whitney Cox Wimbush (2003), formerly in Seattle, WA, and South Korea, is now in Savannah, where she is a military contractor for the Honeywell Corp. at Hunter Army Airfield. She is married to John Wimbush. Email: whitney_e_cox@yahoo.com.
ALUMNIVILLE

Sharon Deane Jones (2004), Statesboro, a digital marketing account specialist for the Savannah Morning News, recently married Brian Persinger of Statesboro.

Victoria W. Lindsey (2004), formerly in Newman, is now in Macon, where she is an accountant with Southeastern Retirement. She is married to Christopher D. Lindsey, a 2003 Georgia Southern sports management graduate. Email: vicki.lindsey@gmail.com.

Brittany L. Black (2005), Leary, who is employed with Peach State Health Plan, is engaged to Alton Westbrook Mathis, a Valdosta State graduate.

Julie Massingale (2006), formerly in Mt. Pleasant, SC, is now in Augusta, where she is the director of marketing for McLeod/Dowling Attorneys at Law, Evans. She is married to Jonathan Newman, a 2006 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: jnewman@mcleoddowling.com.

Todd E. Perry (2006), New Smyrna Beach, FL, is the officer manager for Buddy Davenport’s State Farm Insurance Co. Email: todd@buddydavenport.com.

Suzanne Brown (2007), formerly in Stokesdale, NC, is now in Atlanta, where she is the associate media manager for 36Di, Atlanta, a digital marketing agency. Email: eashen@36Di.com.

E. Bryan Clark, III (2007), formerly in Savannah, is now in Marietta, is in outside sales with Service Master. He married Caroline Rawson, a 2008 Georgia Southern communications graduate, on Valentine’s Day. He is still playing music. Email: abryanclark@gmail.com.

Lucas M. Gowen (2007), Folkston, is an agent with the Wilson Insurance Agency, Waycross. He opened the Folkston office two years ago. He is married to Becky Gowan. Email: lukegowan@yahoo.com.

Matthew B. Singletary (2007), Douglasville, is the property manager for Sovran Self Storage, Riverdale. Email: twiabo_g@live.com.

Matthew B. Singletary (2007), Douglasville, is the property manager for Sovran Self Storage, Riverdale. Email: twiabo_g@live.com.

Samantha H. Barfield (2008), Perry, is the executive team leader for Target, Warner Robins. Email: smii.32286@yahoo.com.

Rachel Lee Cowart (2008), formerly in Savannah, is now in Atlanta, where she is a management trainee for Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Email: rcowart3@email.gerogia.southern.edu.

Christine M. Dudek (2009), formerly in Canton, is now in Atlanta, where she is an account rep with C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Atlanta. Email: chrismarie1230@yahoo.com.

Nakeia Hood Dixon (2003), Ocala, FL, is a business education teacher for the Marion County Public Schools. She is married to Hassan Dixon. Email: nakeiahood@hotmail.com.

Mindie Anne Coleman (2007; BA Music, 2005), Duluth, is the coordinator of residence life for Kennesaw State University.

Bryant F. Lewis (2006), Swainsboro, is now a staff acct, for Clements, Purvis & Stewart, CPAs, Douglas. He is married to Brook Flagler. Email: bflutton79@hotmail.com.

MBA

Robert J. D’Amato (1998), North Charleston, SC, is a senior quality engineer for the Robert Bosch Corporation, Charleston, SC. His wife, Lara, has an MED in counseling from Georgia Southern. Email: robert.d’amato@us.bosch.com.

Samantha C. Jones (2008), Vidalia, is an administrative assistant for Cooper Wining Devices. Email: xcelina81@hotmail.com.

Lisa A. Attinger Cowart (2005), is a customer service agent for Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Savannah. She is married to Michael Cowart. Email: lcowart@forest.invest.com.

MBA

Jonathan Sokol (2002), Suwanee, is a regional investment forester for Forest Investment Associates, Atlanta. He is married to Karen Buck. Email: jsokol@forest.invest.com.

Dr. Sara “Sally” (Morris) Bragg (1955, BUS ED), Vidalia, died July 5, 2009. Dr. Bragg was an assistant professor in the School of Business for many years.


Ronald A. Lundstrom (ACCT, 1969), Atlanta, died in August 2009. Mr. Lundstrom served on COBAs accounting advisory council and forensic accounting board. He also served as accounting’s first executive in residence in 1997.

The Blue Card for Eagle Executive Society

I would like to become a member of the Eagle Executive Society. Enclosed is my check for $50.00.

Full Name (include maiden name)
Spouse’s Name (include maiden name)
Georgia Southern Graduation Year(s) Degree(s) Major(s)
Spouse Degree and Year
Home Address City State Zip
Home Phone Number Business Phone Number
Employer
Business Title
Business Address
City State Zip
E-Mail Address
Preferred Address for delivery Home Office

Complete this form and return to Lewis Stewart, Georgia Southern University, Business Alumni, P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002.
Dr. Paul Gamble LaGrone, 92, passed away July 4, 2009. He was a Rotarian, Coastal Empire Council Boy Scout supporter, Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award recipient, and member and past treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro.

Born in Greenville, MS, in 1916, Dr. LaGrone was a naval aviator during WWII and retired as Lt. Commander from the Navy. He received his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Alabama in 1958 and came to Georgia Southern in 1962 as chair of the Division of Business.

Under his leadership, the Division of Business joined some of the nation’s best business schools in establishing its first accounting major in 1966. Dr. LaGrone successfully guided and developed the division into the School of Business in 1971, serving as its Founding Dean until 1974, when he returned to the faculty. He taught tax accounting until his retirement in 1984 as Professor Emeritus of Accounting and Dean Emeritus of the School of Business.

In 1991, following his retirement and pursuant to his second career as a golfer, Dr. LaGrone, along with his wife, Dorothy, endowed the Paul G. LaGrone Accounting Scholarship Program to provide tuition scholarships for deserving junior level accounting majors. The inaugural recipients of the scholarships were Joanna Tatum and Joely Eldson. Through the generosity of Paul and Dot LaGrone, the fund has provided scholarships for eighteen years. Since its inception, more than $37,000 has been paid out in tuition scholarships to accounting majors earning a 3.0 GPA and above. In recent years the memory of his innumerable contributions to COBA and the university has generated a number of generous gifts and pledges from accounting faculty members and alumni to enhance the fund.

As a result of Dr. LaGrone’s 23-year tenure in the School of Business, alumni may remember him as a challenging professor whose tax management courses provided important CPA preparation. His legacy is evidenced today in the School of Accountancy’s curriculum and Dean’s office protocol.

Dr. Dwight Sneathen with 2009 scholarship recipients Rachel Parrish and Jessica Murray.

The scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Paul G. LaGrone will ensure his contributions to the School of Accountancy program, College of Business Administration, and Georgia Southern will be honored in perpetuity. The Georgia Southern University Foundation account number for the scholarship is #3264. Alumni and former colleagues interested in contributing to the fund may contact Dr. Jill Lockwood, School of Accountancy, at (912) 478-0103.

Dr. and Mrs. LaGrone with 1995 scholarship recipients Paula Parlette and Martha Black.

Leslie Smith (ACCT, 1985), com- mendant of the United States Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School, has been promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony at the Maneuver Support Center, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, Joint Staff Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Directorate, presided over the ceremony.

“I first met then Capt. ‘Les’ Smith 18 years ago when we served together in the 82nd Airborne Division. Those were some very tough and challenging days, but also some of our very best days. We knew then that there was something special about this chemical officer, Capt. Smith,” Via said.

Smith’s wife, Venedra, pinned the star on the new brigadier general’s chest. Les then spoke to the audience, “As I wear this star, I carry the leaders, non-commissioned officers, soldiers, community, friends, and family with me, daily.”

“Jackie Robinson once said, ‘Your life is not important, except for the impact it may have on other lives.’ The five points of the general officer’s star are representative of several impacts in my life,” Smith told the crowd.

“The first point of the star represents leaders, many of whom are here today,” Les continued.

“The second point on that star represents non-commissioned officers and soldiers who helped me to become the soldier I have become,” Smith said.

“The third point on that star stands for community and ambassadorship that support. We all know it takes a village, but how many of us actually become a part of that village—to encourage, harass, and motivate people to make it to the next level? We all have a part to play, to develop not only our biological children, but also those children in our community.” Les explained.

“The fourth point on that star is for friends. Next to your family, your friends help sustain you through all those many assignments and the hardships you endure,” Smith said.

“The fifth and final point on the star is for family. There is no doubt I would not be where I am today, without support from a great family. My mom is one of the most flexible and adaptive leaders I have ever known. My dad died when I was 5; she could have packed it in, said life was too hard, and blamed the system. Instead, she made the strategic decision to send all of her children to private schools—before school vouchers,” Smith said.

“I pray you glean my message has little to do with me, but everything to do with how blessed we are, and that one person can make a difference. Be it that counselor in high school, the big brother or big sister mentor, or an uncle or aunt who makes the extra effort for a knackle-head kid,” Les concluded.

He took over as the United States Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School commandant on June 28, 2008.

Dr. and Mrs. LaGrone with 1995 scholarship recipients Paula Parlette and Martha Black.

Vanedra Smith (math & computer science, 1988) places the rank of brigadier general on her husband, Leslie (ACCT, 1985).

Fall 2009 COBA Facts & Figures

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<tr>
<th>COBA Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-business</td>
<td>1,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBA program</td>
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<td>Graduate program</td>
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<th>Undergraduate BBA Programs</th>
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<td>Marketing</td>
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<td>Tenure and tenure-track</td>
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