Welcome, Dr. Brooks A. Keel !!
From humble beginnings . . . our 12th president in 103 years

The Board of Regents has appointed Dr. Brooks A. Keel to succeed Dr. Bruce F. Grube on January 1, 2010.

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 Florida State University, Ph.D. in reproductive endocrinology from the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, and post-doctoral training at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, and University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Vermillion.

Until his current position, Keel was associate vice president for research and professor of biomedical sciences at Louisiana State University, Tallahassee. His professional career includes 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 are skilled scuba divers, certified as master diver instructors by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, and enjoy underwater photography.

Welcome, Drs. Brooks Keel and Tammie Schalue.

The Grube Era
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, divisions, 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.

COBA Offers First Ph.D. at Georgia Southern

Dean Ron Shiffler recently announced the College of Business Administration will offer a doctor of philosophy degree in logistics and supply chain management beginning Fall 2010. This represents the highest degree a university may confer and the first Ph.D. ever offered by Georgia Southern. While the University System of Georgia offers more than 180 doctoral programs, the new degree will be the only one available for the rapidly growing logistics and supply chain management field in a business program.

The new Ph.D. builds on COBA’s already nationally-recognized undergraduate degree program in logistics and the important economic role of logistics and materials management in the Georgia economy. Between the Port of Savannah and Hartsfield-Jackson Airport transportation centers, Georgia is home to many distribution centers and terminals offering significant employment opportunities.

Dean Ron Shiffler

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 on 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.
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 Bleckeen, 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 alumni 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/EXSMembership.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
Department News

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

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.

Information Systems

Manousch 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.”

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. Ampomah, 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.

Sibsbald Heads BBRED

Edward H. Sibbald, director of the Center for Excellence in Financial Services, has also recently assumed leadership of the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development, BBRED, which was founded in 1984 to promote research opportunities for business faculty and currently focuses on economic development in Southeast Georgia.

Top 10 Reasons for Making a Contribution to COBA

#1 Reduced funding from state appropriations
#2 Leverage
#3 Covering basic expenses
#4 100 percent of your contribution is used
#5 National rankings
#6 A sense of “giving back”
#7 A tax deduction
#8 Personal pride in your alma mater
#9 Ability to designate where your dollars go
#10 More! This is a great way to double the impact (size) of your gift—leverage!

Stay tuned for Reason # 1.

Price Elected to Executive Committee of CSAB

Barbara Price, professor, has been elected vice president of the Computing Sciences Accrediting 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 and is a cooperating society for accreditation of computer engineering, biological engineering, and information engineering technology. CSAB has responsibility for the development of accreditation criteria, selection and training of program evaluators, and program accreditation.

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.

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!
2009 Scholarship Recipients

Freeman Business Scholars

Alyssa Oravec
Landon Latham
Kart Rigby
Ben Woods

Georgia Society of CPAs

Savannah Chapter: Lisa Conti-Bacon, Christina Larson, Danielle Batten, Heather Cherry, Emily Scott, Matt Steinberg, and Alex Lanter
Southeast Georgia Chapter: Sujie Zhang, Jennifer Gay, Jonathan Branch, Erik Krumschuster, Joshua Blanchard, Whitney Howard, and Ms. Paula Mooney

Dixie Crystals Scholars

Katie Carter
Lisa Pierce
Cam Randall
Greg Vickers

Paul LaGrone

Jessica L. Muray
Rachel A. Parrish

White

Kyle Randall

Cox

Ryan Lewis

Priddy-Price Scholars

Brett Layson
Ally Rakoczy

WACO Fire & Casualty Insurance Scholars

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

Beta Gamma Sigma

Darin Lane

GATE Scholars

Cole Brunham; Lee Glosson; Kathryn Randall; Dr. Debbie Sinclair; Miranda Johnson; and Justin Reynolds

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
Janofsky: Dennis J. Luong and Aaron D. Rosenbaum
Giacomo: Andrew Kevan Sears
Georgia Retail Association: Stephanie Ellen Vangrov and Mairre Elizabeth Ryan
Charlettes: JoAnna Maria Kyser and Jessica L. Perdue
SHRM: Racheal 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 of Georgia Southern students. Feedback from students was excellent on his topics of defining success, the circle of your influence, and veracity 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. Southern Intergovernmental Audit Forum, and National State Auditors Association.

The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants is the professional organization for CPAs in Georgia, whose purpose is to promote the study of accountancy, 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 the accomplishments of these 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.

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 various 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 between 11:00 and 1:00 for both flights. The afternoon registration will occur between noon and 1:00 p.m. with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in pre-registering now, please e-mail Lisa Williams at lwms@georgia.southern.edu.

The 16th Annual COBA Golf Tournament was held this past spring. Despite the rain, the morning and afternoon rounds were completed by the approximately 180 golfers competing for more than $1,000 in prize money and several dozen raffle items in the best ball annual event.

News. Engineering teams are identified below, but the real winner is the College of Business Administration as loyal alums and friends from as far away as Atlanta, play in the tournament year-after-year.

Low net: Austin Martin, Herb Brown, Casey Pinkard, Tracy Trip
Low gross: Jim Higgins, Michael Wright, Gina Gibson, Jeff Richardson
Longest drive, men: Bubba Renfrow
Longest drive, women: Cheryl Aasheim
Closest to the pin on #3: Russ Lanier
Closest to the pin on #6: Mike Plante
Closest to the pin on #8: Steve Moss
Closest to the pin on #10: Mike Gary
Straightest drive on #1: Billy Harris

In recent years, the tournament has been headed by golf committee chair, Jan Grimes. “‘General’ Grimes and ‘Lieutenant’ Lisa Williams promote sponsors, signs, gifts, prizes, and raffle items, plan registration, and carry out the event.

Special thanks to COBA volunteers who made it happen: Bill Anderson, Jared Anderson, Brianna Boulanger, Zandra Brasington, Nick DeBons, Kevin Elder, Cindy Glover, Jan Grimes, Jeanette Hadden, Dena Hale, Chuck Harter, Brooks Kennedy, Vicki King, Jamie Lane, Meghan Maynard, Eddie Metreau, Linda Mullin, David Mukriss, Nicki Newton, Barbara Price, Carol Price, Mary Ramirez, Susan Roach, Nevin Robertson, Paige Rainier, Vic Sasser, Eric Sellers, Ed Sibbald, Jake Simons, Debra Sinclair, Austin Steed, Lewis Stewart, Michael Thomas, Rob Tillman, Linda Wilke, Lisa Williams, Stephanie Williams, Susan Williams, and Jerry Wilson.
**From the Director**

Greetings 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! 

**MAcc Update**

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.

**Georgia WebMBA®**

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/. 

**Greg Van Zant**

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.
Timothy Beale

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.

Jaclyn Cason

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.

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.

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.

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 MaGe’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.

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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.

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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.

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.
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.
COBA Welcomes New Faculty & Administrators

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 have four faculty searches 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 Gibbison 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 booth, 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 partnership 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 Rothschild, presenting white collar crime investigations by the U. S. Secret Service.

In the Fraud and Forensic Accounting Program, undergraduate students of any major can take five courses and receive a Fraud examination minor. These courses, including macro fraud, micro fraud, white collar crime, fraud and the law, and forensic interviews and interrogations, are designed to prepare students for certification testing as a certified fraud examiner. The prerequisite for these courses is simply an accounting course.

Graduate students in the MAcc program may receive a Forensic accounting 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.

Eagle FastPitch was one of 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 Collars, 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.

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

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Eagle FastPitch
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 opportunities for today’s students. 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 acknowledgments below. We appreciate your support.
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, Atlantic 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 Barbree, director of accounting, Joseph David Advertising, St. Simons;

Mike Sanders, senior vice president, UBS Financial Services, Atlanta;

Steven Wilson, work ready regions coordinator, Governor’s Workforce Development Office, Atlanta;

Brittany McElroy, financial advisor, AXX Advisors, Atlanta;

Information Systems

Cindy Tierney, chief information officer, Beazer Homes, Atlanta;

Matt Ringer, planning systems administrator, Global Sourcing and Planning Systems, Atlanta.

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 Burnett from Sea Island Bank, Kelly Herrington from First Southern Bank, Joe Laniere 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 Diplolito from Prudential Kennedy Realty, Shannon Grindler from Coldwell Banker–Tanner Realty, Nick Propps from Manack Signature Properties, and Sherri Hinson from Farmers & Merchants Bank.

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.

The School of Accountancy’s Executive in Residence program was established in 1996 to bring high profile, highly successful executives to campus. The objective of the program is to encourage accounting students and to share with them what is involved in developing meaningful and rewarding careers.

COBA is honored to have Scott Hilsen, attorney and partner, Alston and Bird, LLP, serve as vice chair of the Forensic Accounting Advisory Board in the School of Accountancy.

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 Ampomah, Rachael Barrett, Don Berzcz, Jim Davis, Troy Denton, Jackie Eastman, Godfrey Gibbon, Jan Grimes, Jeanette Haddon, 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 Metrejean, Davin Miller, Lowell Mooney, Linda Mullin, Tom Nolan, Cynthia Parrish, Cindy Randall, Paige Rutner, Dave Shepherd, Jake Simons, Dwight Sneadeth, Mike Thomas, Carol Woller, Joy West, Jerry Wilson, Mildred Wilson, Bill Yang, and Jonathan Zhang for their help.

COBANs Attend Braves Game

J. T. Marburger, a COBA Business Advisory Council member, hosted an Atlanta Braves vs. New York Mets event in a Turner Field skybox over home plate. Guests included Mark and Jenny Lynn Anderson, Rick Barr, M. H. Robinson, Barry and Joy Deal, Julian and Frances Deal, Bill and Carol McGahee, and Helen and Ashley Stembridge along with J. T. and Joseph Marburger, Ron and Barbara Shiffer, and Linda Wilke.
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 Blacker, who has three degrees from the College of Education. Email: cowartje@bulloch.edu.

Tori S. Brennen (1994; MBA 1995), Marietta, is a financial/accounting analyst for Solvay Pharmaceuticals.

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. Shroyer, Jr. (1994; MBA 1996), Atlanta, is the owner and vp of sales for BlyTech, Inc., Smyrna. Email: dtsroley@blytechinc.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: cllashions@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: patiludeman@yahoo.com.

Information Systems
T. Allen Madding (1986), Cumming, is now a consultant/project lead for Xentric, 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: patticowith@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 Wahiawa, 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: witrig.laura@yahoo.com.

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

Paul K. Brown (2002), Ellabell, is an import agent 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 Expeditors. Email: brad.debardelaben@gmail.com.

Matt Ater (2004), Atlanta, is an import agent with Expeditors International. Email: m88er7881@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: brownni@schneider.com.

Keary Don Cuebros (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 re-authorization legislation. Email: jonsimpson1@gmail.com.

Management

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

Jeff T. Pipkin (1993), formerly on Hilton Head Island, SC, is now in Albany, where he is the owner of Graphix Xpressions. He is married to Linda Cannon. Email: jtpipkin@mchi.com.

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

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

Alison Smiley Hugi (1996), Statesboro, is the director of operations for the Industry Buying Group. Email: alisaninbg@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: suzanne4172@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@pippermohr.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 Langton Cannon (1999), Marietta, has been an AMI teacher for six years and is now studying to become an SLF. She is married to John Adkins. Email: deannacoldkins@gmail.com.

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

Jeramie 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 DeRidder, 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.

Chris Braddy (2003), formerly in Saporten, 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 now 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.

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

Bradley M. Harrigan (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: laure_fortier@belk.com.

Mark A. Simpson (2005), formerly in NH, is now in Dunwoody, where he is an account manager for Miller Zell, Inc. Email: mark.simpson@millerzell.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 Lumberton, 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 Armmington (2008), Marietta, is an administrative assistant-corporate development for Med Assets, Alpharetta. Email: larmington@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 Locumentens.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: tfh336@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@mcleodadowning.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 a marketing research assistant for the University of North Carolina. Email: rachel.suzannenbrown@live.com.

Evie Cashen (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: abryclark@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 Gowen. Email: lukegowan@yahoo.com.

Matthew B. Singletary (2007), Douglasville, is the property manager for Southern Self Storage, Riverdale. Email: twizzoo83@gmail.com.

Mindy Anne Coleman (2007; BA Music, BUS ED), Vidalia, served as accounting’s first executive in 1997. She is now in Atlanta, where she is an account rep with C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Canton, is now in Atlanta, where she is an account rep with C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Atlanta. Email: ccowart3@email.georgia 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.

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.georgia southern.edu.

Bryant F. Lewis (2006), Swainsboro, is now a staff acct, for Clements, Purvis & Stewart, CPAs, Douglas. He is married to Brook Flagger. Email: blfulton79@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.

Laura Kentscher (1999), formerly in Norcross is now in Decatur. She is married to Andrew Beeson. Email: lbeeson@comcast.net.

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

MBA

Dorain R. DelBarr (2004), Decatur, is a CPA with Mauldin and Jenkins, CPAs, Atlanta. Email: ddelbarr@mjcpa.com.

Lisa Attinger Cowart (2005), is a customer service agent for Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Savannah. She is married to Michael Cowart. Email: lcowart3@yahoocom.

MBA

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

Zachary S. Betsill (2009), Vidalia, is a systems engineer with the Southern Nuclear Company, Basley. Email: zbetsill@gmail.com.

Andrea D. Blair (2009), Chelsea, AL, is the project engineer/government contract administrator for Southern Company Services, Birmingham, AL. Email: andrea_dblair@yahoo.com.

Jessica Celina (2009), Peachtree City, is the senior financial analyst for Cooper Wining Devices. Email: xcelina81@hotmail.com.

In Memoriam

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 COBKs 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.
**Paul LaGrone Accounting Scholarship**

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.

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**Smith Promoted to Brigadier General**

Leslie Smith (ACCT, 1985), commandant 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 assignments and in 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 knuckle-head kid,” Les concluded.

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

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**Fall 2009 COBA Facts & Figures**

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<th>Undergraduate BBA Programs</th>
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<td>Marketing 16%</td>
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<td>Accounting 23%</td>
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<td>Management 12%</td>
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<td>Economics 4%</td>
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<td>Finance 18%</td>
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