Georgia Southern’s First Ph.D.

The inaugural class is now being admitted with more than thirty applicants having been interviewed. The biggest challenge has been matching student strengths and faculty expertise. The selection committee will be determining the final class shortly, anticipated to be between eight and ten students for the first year and consistent with the objective of ten candidates annually.

The Ph.D. in logistics and SCM represents the first Ph.D. offered at Georgia Southern. While the University System of Georgia offers more than 180 doctoral programs, the new degree is the only one available for the rapidly growing logistics and SCM field in a business program and, for Georgia, the first Ph.D. offered south of the I-20 corridor.

The new program builds on COBA’s already nationally-recognized undergraduate 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 transport centers, Georgia is home to many distribution centers and terminals offering significant employment opportunities. The new program will qualify graduates for both advanced academic and industry positions in the region.

Since the announcement, COBA has been diligently preparing to begin the program this fall. An advisory committee of Jerry Burke, Constance Campbell, Adrian Gardiner, Luke Pittaway, and Dave Shepherd has worked closely with the newly appointed director, Steve Rutner, professor of logistics, to prepare the courses and recruit strong candidates. With more than twenty new doctoral level courses being added, faculty and resources are in place for the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 classes, and the support classes for minors in marketing, operations management, and information systems are being developed to go online in Fall 2011.

The partnership between Toys “R” Us-Babies “R” Us, the company that defined branding by reversing the letter “R” in its name, and COBA’s Center for Retail Studies continues to expand its visibility through a Retail Career Fair booth, Retail Education Week sponsorship, partnership website identification, internship and recruitment opportunities, class and lecture series, and student chapter Georgia Retail Association affiliation. Each of these activities is designed to build and enhance the brand image of the partners.

It all started two years ago when “R” Us recruiter Rafael Robert visited Georgia Southern with his son. He immediately envisioned the academic atmosphere perfectly suited to his company’s recruiting needs. The next semester, as he recruited on campus, Georgia Southern was invited to join the “R” Us national University partnership program.

This spring, Human Resources Vice President Teresa Orth, University Relations Manager Jane Baczynski, and COBA alumnae Tia McBride and Michelle Humphries, both Georgia Babies “R” Us managers, visited Georgia Southern to memorialize the “R” Us partner relationship and present a check to the Georgia Southern University Foundation. The visit, hosted by Dr. Kathleen Gruben, Center for Retail Studies director, included meetings with the university president, business school dean, provost, faculty members, and students. At the University’s Honors Day Ceremonies, “R” Us presented a scholarship to Anna Rhodes, National Intergovernmental Case Competition winner. The “R” Us partnership represents the company’s second national partnership. In years to come, it has the potential to assist many highly talented COBA students pursuing careers in retail industries.

For the second consecutive year, Georgia Southern, along with The University of Georgia and Georgia Institute of Technology, has been named one of the Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges by Kiplinger’s, a leading personal finance and business forecast publisher.

“We are very pleased Kiplinger’s recognizes Georgia Southern as one of the most outstanding values in the country. It is important for parents and students to know they are receiving the most for their educational investment,” says University President Brooks Keel.
A Message from Dean Shiffler

There was a television sit-com that aired on network TV from the mid-1970s through the mid-1980s called “The Jeffersons.” The theme song for the show was titled “Movin’ On Up” with the lyrics that started: “Well, we’re movin’ on up, to the top,” and included the line, “Now, we’re up in the big leagues, Getting’ our turn at bat.”

Well, folks, your College of Business Administration is indeed “movin’ on up” and we truly are “… up in the big leagues.” I am referring to the landmark decision last fall by the Board of Regents that granted Georgia Southern University permission to begin the first Ph.D. degree program in the history of the university. And, guess which college at Georgia Southern gets the privilege of delivering the first-ever Ph.D. degree? Yes, COBA!

Let me put this in perspective. When most of you were here as a student at Georgia Southern College, the name of our institution from 1959 through 1990, we offered only bachelor and master degrees. The first doctorate degree—the Ed.D. degree—was started in 1992 in the College of Education.

Until last fall, Georgia’s Ph.D. programs were available only at the research institutions: The University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and Medical College of Georgia. Institutions of higher education are classified into tiers, by mission, with research institutions being the top tier.

As Georgia Southern University grew in scope and size, we outgrew our classification as a predominantly bachelor and master degree institution. It was time to “move on up” and join the top tier. Your College of Business Administration is leading the way with the new Ph.D. degree in logistics and supply chain management. Since this is baseball season, the best metaphor I can offer is to think of us as a rookie who has just been called up to “The Show.”

While we still have a long way to go, as a university, to compete at the level of a University of Georgia or a Georgia Tech, COBA is indeed competing with those schools, and other research institutions around the country, for top-tier faculty and top-tier students.

We hired two new logistics faculty members this year and, under the direction of Interim Ph.D. Director Steve Rutner, we are putting the finishing touches on our initial class of doctoral students, who will begin classes this fall. In about three or four years, our first doctoral student will graduate and accept a position as a new faculty member in an AACSB-accredited business school.

In the meantime, we will continue to focus on our core competency—undergraduate education—while we grow our graduate programs. All of our undergraduate majors are thriving through our “niche” strategy of developing differentiating features, including forensics in the accounting major, sales in the marketing major, and entrepreneurship in the management major.

Meanwhile, at the graduate level, our Georgia WebMBA® program once again earned a “Best Buy” national ranking by Get Educated.com, a company that researches, validates, and ranks online MBA programs, and The Princeton Review included our MBA and MAcc programs in its list of “Best Business Schools,” again this year.

With the move up to doctoral education, we are now authorized to award the highest level degree possible in higher education, the Ph.D. degree. The eyes of the state, the Board of Regents, and the other research institutions are upon us, as it is “…our turn at bat.” Success at this level is defined as creating and delivering a high quality doctoral program. No more practice swings—we’ve stepped into the batter’s box. Play ball!

Please cheer us on and continue to support your “Business Eagles!”

Ronald E. Shiffler
Dean

The 17th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

The annual COBA golf tournament was held at Forest Heights Country Club on Friday, May 14. Winning teams were Gross – Joe Underwood, Nate Singletary, John Frazier, and Brian Anderson, and Net – Marty NeSmith, Chad NeSmith, Randy Wilson, and Bucky Wagner. Special awards were Straightest Drive – Phillip Chapman, Closest to the Pin – David Holland (#2), Ray Aytes (#6), and Colby Hook (#15), and Longest Drive – Holly Bennett, ladies and Brian Smith, men. Special thanks to corporate sponsors, Walmart Logistics and East Georgia Regional Medical Center.

First, I want to thank all those who called, sent cards and food, or offered a prayer while I was recovering from knee replacement surgery in January. All were sincerely appreciated. I have finished my therapy and can do most everything except ride a bike. It will take longer than I thought to get back on the tennis court.

If you are thinking about replacing a knee, it will bring about therapy and can do most everything except ride a bike. It will take longer than I thought to get back on the tennis court.

I am still sending out blue cards. The update information is really important to COBA. It helps us to see what type employment our grads are getting. When you get a job with a company and perform on a high level, it might open doors for our graduates. So, please, send back your blue card or, better yet, just fill in the Eagle Executive Society Alumni Questionnaire form on page 15. We will not put your information in the Eagle Executive, especially, if you are a spy.

Your $50 for the Eagle Executive Society, and more if your situation allows, is greatly needed because of the budget cuts. Fifty dollars alone is not much, but a lot of $50 or even $100 will really help COBA to do the job expected. It costs to send faculty to meetings, etc., and, in today’s world, faculty must publish or perish. (Maybe not in the final sense, but academically!) AACSB requirements dictate professors research and write papers referred by others before they are published in the top academic journals.

I am still trying to locate all of our alums, and so if you see someone who has not been getting the Eagle Executive, please let me know. If you make it to the ‘Boro, give me a call and I’ll buy lunch—if it is not a bus tour. And I am still waiting for your blue card. Hey—the triple option is back!!!

Best regards,

Lewis M. Stewart
Dean
Department News

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

In collaboration with LeVon Wilson, professor, SOA, Keiylene has developed a proposal, “Developing an Assessment Portfolio: The Making of the B-School Resume,” which was accepted for presentation at the 2010 AACSB Assessment Conference.

Information Systems
Tom Case, chair, Linda Wilke, development officer, Carole Smith, administrative secretary, Adrian Gardiner, Hsiang-Jui Kung, and, Camille Rogers, associate professors, along with thirty-two students, recently attended the Atlanta chapter meeting of the Americas’ Systems, Applications, and Products Users’ Group.

Management, Marketing, & Logistics
Feruzan Irani, assistant professor, hosted John Key, director of human resources and collaboration technologies, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., in her staffing, training, and development class. Mr. Key discussed challenges faced in human resources (HR) in the fluctuating atmosphere of the business world as well as the role of HR information systems. He also spoke about internship opportunities available through Coca-Cola and the current job market. Mr. Key later served as the featured speaker at Society for Human Resource Management’s meeting that same night.

Luke Pittaway, professor and William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair in Finance Enterprise, has been elected to the board of the Lowcountry Small Business Hub. The Hub provides foster training and other services to small businesses in the rural counties surrounding Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, SC. Dr. Pittaway has also been asked to chair Georgia Southern’s Intellectual Property Committee and has recently joined the editorial board of International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy.

Dr. Pittaway’s entrepreneurship classes hosted an Entrepreneur Panel, which discussed how businesses are started, grown, diversified, and managed through economic decline. It included Lynn Lilly, the Lilly Group, marketing communications, Statesboro; Phillip Jennings, Jennings Turf Farm and Sunbelt Biofuels, producer, Soperton; and, Allen Rice, Savannah Luggage Works, manufacturer, Vidalia.

Bennie Curl, CEO of Byrd Cookie Company, hosted Professor Emeritus Jim Randall’s marketing MBA class at the Savannah factory and store. Mr. Curl spent two hours with the class sharing his successes and failures in the gourmet cookie industry. He also discussed the effects of the recession on his company and how it is coping in today’s economy.

Dave Shepherd, professor, has been invited to serve on the advisory academic board of Perdue University’s Center for Professional Selling.

The 4th annual COBA Sales Challenge, a student competition in personal sales calls, coordinated by Dave Shepherd and judged by Dena Hale and Linda Mullen, assistant professors, and Jim Randall, resulted in the following awards: 1st place–Peter Cato; 2nd place–Donovan Lowe; 3rd place–Ally Rakocy; and, 4th place–Samson Seyoum.

Logistics majors Cole Fountain, Rebecca Ringel, Melissa Turner, and Tyler Beck attended the 2010 Operation Stimulus Competition in Denver, CO. This annual event brings together some of the nation’s top undergraduates to compete against one another. The COBA team placed 3rd in national competition.

In March, the Savannah Traffic Club (STC) awarded five scholarships to logistics and intermodal transportation majors. This is the 15th consecutive year that the STC has supported our students. This year, STC presented a total of $10,000 to Kelly Hagaquel, Bonnie Leonard, Autumn Grady, Brian Millsap, and James Neer at a low country boil in their honor. Much of the success of our COBA programs is due to the support of our business partners.

School of Accountancy

On January 19, the leadership of COBA’s student chapter of Beta Alpha Psi organized a banquet and presentations with the local chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs. Jessica Murray and Matthew Steinberg presented “The SEC Road Map;” Brandi Odom presented “IRS Guidance on Ponzi Scheme Losses;” and Fiona Ryan and John Maier presented “Student Tax Credit.” The event was such a success that the two groups have decided to make it an annual event.

Professor Emeritus Horace Harrell was honored as the 2009 KWianian of the Year by the Statesboro Kiwanis at the club’s 50th anniversary dinner in February. He has been active in Kiwanis for the past 31 years. Horace is a 1969 Georgia Southern accounting alumnus.

On April 23, Harry Wright, associate professor, and Mike Wiggins, assistant professor, made presentations to an audience of Certified Management Accountants at its annual spring seminar in Savannah. Dr. Wiggins presented a riveting speech on ethics, providing an explanation of where ethical positions can emanate; internally or externally. Because ethics can weaken over time, his skillful presentation was designed to make audience members reconnect with their ethical compasses. Dr. Wright spoke about the Textron Case, now being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. This significant case will impact the client-accountant privilege, and business interests should be familiar with the implications. Dr. Wright’s insights held the audience in rapt attention; interested persons may contact him at hrwright@georgiasouthern.edu.

School of Economic Development

Rachel Jones, junior economics major, has been awarded a congressional internship in Washington, DC, through the Eagles in DC program. She will be one of two Eagles working in Congressman John Barrow’s office.

Computer Science and Information Technology

Robert Cook, professor, has published two books, Introduction to Operating Systems and Introduction to C Program-ming with a Little OpenGL for Fun. Chair Jim Harris, professor, has been active in Kiwanis for the past 31 years. Horace is a 1969 Georgia Southern accounting alumnus.

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New IS Scholarship

A new scholarship fund for students majoring in information systems has been established by three recent graduates, Samantha Grovenstein Lee (IS and ACCT, ’05), a software trainer and consultant with CCH Tax and Accounting; Jennifer Lynn Fields (IS ’05), admissions specialist at East Georgia College; and, Kelley Gonnella Chester (FIN ’93; MPH ’07; and DrPH ’10) senior business analyst for the Public Health Informatics Institute.

Samantha, Jennifer, and Kelley decided they wanted to give back to COBA and CIT in a tangible way by setting up a permanent scholarship with a $20,000 endowment through the Georgia Southern University Foundation. The effort was only begun this spring, yet they are almost at the halfway mark of achieving the goal. “Our hope is that this scholarship opportunity will encourage more female students to become involved in technology-related careers,” Samantha related. If you would like to help them reach their goal contact Linda Wilke lwilke@georgiasouthern.edu 912-478-5050.

Retirements

Cynthia F. Pearson, senior secretary, School of Accountancy, is pictured with President Brooks Keel at this spring’s retirement ceremonies as Dr. Gary Means, provost, introduces. Also retiring this year are Susan E. Miller, administrative secretary, Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis, and Leslee N. Higgins, associate professor, School of Accountancy.

Faculty Promoted and Tenured

Jacqueline E. Eastman Tenured
Kevin L. Eastman Tenured
Karen L. Hamilton Promoted to Associate Professor of Finance and Tenured
Robert E. Jackson Tenured
John J. Leaptrott Tenured
Karl B. Mauroff Promoted to Professor of Logistics
Cheryl T. Metrejean Promoted to Associate Professor of Accounting and Tenured
Steven E. Moss Promoted to Professor of Quantitative Analysis
Linda G. Mullin Tenured
John R. O’Malley, Jr. Tenured
Debra T. Sinclair Promoted to Associate Professor of Accounting and Tenured
The Zeta Delta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi and the Georgia Southern University Accounting Association sponsored the School of Accountancy’s 20th Annual Accounting Day Awards Banquet on April 21, 2010. The evening’s events began with a career fair for accounting majors. Eighteen accounting firms and professional organizations with more than forty industry representatives met with students to discuss full-time positions and internships. The day ended with the annual awards banquet in which the school honored its graduating seniors and awarded scholarships.

Academic Achievement awards jointly sponsored by the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs and the Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs; and from the Savannah Chapter of the Institute of CPAs. The Coastal Georgia Chapter of the Institute of CPAs and the Savannah Chapter of the Institute of CPAs also presented scholarships.

Savannah Chapter of GA Society of CPAs; Richard Minshew, Karl Dorsey, Jr., Chapter President Lisa Conti-Bacico, Christina Payne, Meng Yin Dong, and Joseph Hotaling

Family Scholarship, sponsored by Bobby and Kris Mikell of Statesboro, was presented to James Spriere, and the Ronald A. Lundstrom Accounting Scholarship in Forensic Accounting, sponsored by Gifford Hillegas and Ingwersen, LLP, was presented to Clisha Cleveland.

The Southeast Georgia and Savannah Chapters of the Georgia Society of CPAs in collaboration with the Georgia Society’s Educational Foundation co-sponsored the Georgia Accountants’ Team Effort (GATE) over her 28 years of service to the School of Accountancy. Accounting Day is made possible through the generosity of many organizations that have supported Georgia Southern’s accounting program for several years. Many thanks go to the following corporate sponsors: Becker Professional Review; Dabb Hicksman Hill and Cannon, LLP; Draftin and Tucker, LLP; Elliott Davis, LLC; The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs; Franklin, Mikell & Co.; Gifford Hillegas and Ingwersen, LLP; Grant Thornton, LLP.

Hala Muddelmog Returns to Arby’s

The nation’s third largest quick service restaurant company, Wendy’s Arby’s Group, Inc., with $12 billion in system sales, more than 10,000 restaurants, and a presence in 25 countries worldwide, recently announced Hala Muddelmog, age 54, has been named president of the Arby’s Restaurant Group, Inc. Hala, a seasoned industry executive, having previously been CEO of Church’s Chicken, Susan O. Komen for the Cure, a breast cancer research organization, and Catalytic Ventures, a service consulting firm, began her business career in the food industry as a research analyst for AFA Service Corporation, the Arby’s franchise marketing association. She also served as vice president of product development and strategic planning for the group. When Hala was named president of Church’s Chicken in 1995, she became the first woman to lead a major international restaurant company. The company outperformed the food service industry under her leadership, experiencing record sales and profit growth through her strong relationships with franchisees, marketing expertise, and new product development skills.

Hala earned an MA in journalism and mass communications, The University of Georgia, and a BA in English, Georgia Southern University. She is certified in executive education programs at Harvard University, Northwestern University’s Kellogg Graduate School of Management, and the National Association of Corporate Directors.

A strong supporter of Georgia Southern, Hala chaired the University’s first capital campaign in 2003. The Campaign for Georgia Southern, which exceeded its goal by more than 33 percent. In 1998, she was recognized as a College of Business Administration Hall of Fame inductee; in 2000, College of Liberal Arts Alumna of the Year; and in 2007, University Alumna of the Year and awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Letters. Most recently, she was recognized as the 2009 recipient of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award, joining approximately fifty previous recipients, including journalists Tom Brokaw and Dan Rather, generals Tom Franks and Colin Powell, singer Burt Ives, former first lady Rosalyn Carter, Senator Bob Dole, author James Michener, and President Lyndon Johnson, all having “made a significant contribution to the public, intellectual, or cultural life of the nation,” the award’s stated purpose.
Linda M. Bleicken Is Beta Gamma Sigma Honoree

Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS), the honor society sponsored by AACSB International: The Association to Exemplify Collegiate Schools of Business, inducted Armstrong Atlantic State University President Linda M. Bleicken, chapter honoree, at its 30th annual banquet April 5 in the Russell Union Ballroom.

The 2010 BGS honoree is a native of Iowa farm country. She earned a bachelor in marketing, magna cum laude, along with master and Ph.D. degrees in management from Georgia State University, and began her academic career at Georgia Southern University in 1990 as an assistant professor of management. Dr. Bleicken later became associate dean of the College of Business Administration, moving to vice president student affairs, then vice president of academic affairs, and, finally, provost, a post she held from 2005 until 2009, before being tapped to become the seventh president of Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah. In her nineteen years at Georgia Southern, she oversaw the addition of three doctoral degrees, facilitated the establishment of the College of Public Health and Information Technology, and helped implement the Center for Online Learning. Dr. Bleicken and husband Carl, are longtime residents of Savannah, where she is involved with the Savannah Downtown Neighborhood Association and serves on the board of the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

The mission of BGS is “to encourage and honor academic achievement in the study of business, to foster personal and professional excellence, to advance the values of the Society, and to serve its lifelong members.” The chapter honoree designation is offered to those who have furthered the ideals of the society through outstanding business and managerial leadership.

Dr. Bleicken and husband Carl, are longtime residents of Savannah, where she is involved with the Savannah Downtown Neighborhood Association and serves on the board of the Ossabaw Island Foundation.

The Georgia Southern University chapter was formed in 1982 under the leadership of accounting professor Horace Harrell and former dean Oiri James. Both undergraduate and graduate business majors are eligible to join, provided they are in the top 15 percent of the junior class and top 10 percent of the senior class. This year, BGS inducted 37 juniors, 34 seniors, 4 master students, and faculty members Adrian Gardiner and Dwight Sneathen, Jr. Chapter President Leslie Fletcher presented the 2010-11 BGS scholarship to Rahim M. Mawji.

BETA GAMMA SIGMA

The Honor Society for AACSB Accrediting Business Programs

Graduate Inductees
Linda K. Dahlskold
Debra Y. Hall-Fretwel
John E. Sedivy
Derek S. Zeonah

Senior Inductees
Timothy J. Burnsed
Megan E. Butler
Michael E. Chan
Karrie L. Clater
Rachel A. Clift
Christopher M. Council

Erin K. Craig
Sonia M. Curtis
Broton W. Daly
Renesha L. Davis
Amber S. Easterwood
Jessica M. Farrell
Mateo Follis
Joshua D. Frederick
Candace Y. Fullmore
Ahmed Gandema
Meghan B. Goodin
Autumn R. Grady
Ann M. Hedges
Bryce D. Hodges
Yeramor Kinder
Lauren La Chance
Rahim Mawji

Alison M. Mise
Megan P. Moreau
Sherry M. Muru
Amirali Z. Nafshoo
Susan R. Oglesby
Oluwaseun B.
Ogunjemiisu
Adom J. Powers
Anna M. Rhodes
Patrick R. Sullivan
Daniel P. Vinson
Ashley J. Warren

Jr. Inductees
Meredith S. Borfield
Ali B. Beavers
Rebecca A. Beck

Kristen N. Birchett
William B. Blosset
William M. Brackett
Benjamin E. Brooks
Phillip B. Buettlerman
Jonathan D. Chansson
Lacey N. Clawson
Desiree T. Dunn
Danae N. Flatford
Jesse T. Floyd
Justin D. Hagan
Chantal N. Hale-Coohed
Samantha L. Holesovsky
Andrea Johns
Douglas P. Kramschuster
Timothy M. Lavioe
Reggie L. Lawson

Samantha C. Lepionka
Mikel D. Lewis
Dennis J. Luong
Stephen D. Mims
Richard E. Minshew
Lauran E. Osborne
Cameron H. Randall
Shekira L. Roberts
Ryan J. Robinson
Samantha S. Smith
Samuel C. Smith
Katelyn L. Stephens
Tiffany M. Taylor
Cole A. Tucker
Kailin R. Walker
Kearley L. Weiner
Demetria Y. Wright

MBA Business Plan Development Competition

The Business Plan Development Competition course in the MBA program brought real world application of course knowledge to new heights this semester. Professors Melissa Holland, director of the MBA Program, and Bill Wells, chair of the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis, developed and instructed the course partnering with sponsors Chuck and Anthony Tippins, who recently purchased 1,650 acres of property in the area as a long-term financial investment. Students worked with the Tippins brothers, as managing partners, in groups of three or four to construct real-world business plans focused on opportunities to generate revenue growth through timber management, agri-tourism, hunting, and other agri- or recreational activities.

Students were provided the opportunity to gain “real world, hands-on” experience in creating, developing, and presenting actual working business plans. Their overall challenge was to maximize the revenue potential for the property through operations and management. All teams created in-depth business plans that included conceptual, organizational, financial, and marketing components; industry and competitive analyses; target market, sales, and marketing strategies; assets, liabilities, income, expense, and profit-loss projections, including cash flow and debt service schedules; projected return-on-investment, and intermediate and long-term exit strategies.

When the final business plans were presented in late April, the winning team was chosen by the managing partners, MBA faculty, and the professors. The criteria for selecting the winning team were the practicability of the business plan, ease of implementation, originality and creativity, as well as projected outcome in terms of leverage, profitability, and return on assets. Students included Anthony Tippins, founding partner, president, and COO of Aztec Energy Partners, Conyers, is a 1992 graduate of Georgia Southern with a BS in mechanical engineering. A 22-year veteran, commissioned navy reserve officer, and registered professional engineer, he also holds an executive MBA degree from Emory University.

Chuck Tippins, a 1997 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a BBA in marketing, is an eleven-year veteran of the pharmaceutical industry and a senior medical sales account manager.

Sponsors provided the winning team a cash prize of $3,000. The winning team consisted of MBA students James Dodelin, Jessica Vanner, and Cory Zahner, each receiving $1,000 to support their graduate program. Future Business Plan Development Competition courses will be offered in Fall 2010 if sponsors are available. For more information, contact Bill Wells at 912-478-5432.
**From the Director**

For the fourth year in a row, *The Princeton Review* has named COBA as one of its “301 Best Business Schools.” The publication surveys over 19,000 students in AACSB-accredited MBA programs around the world to determine which schools stand out above the rest. Our students cited Georgia Southern’s affordability, quality of instruction, and approachability of faculty as factors contributing to the success of the MBA Program. We are delighted to be recognized in this listing!

Our students continue to make strides in their research. One of our newest students, Danielle Rydzewski, has co-authored with Jackie Eastman, associate professor of marketing, and Joe Bocchi, WebMBA® Program executive director, a research paper, “Important Characteristics in an MBA Program: The Perceptions of Online MBA Students,” which received “Best Paper Award” at the 2010 International Teaching & Learning Conference. The paper has been accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Business Education*. Danielle has another paper, “Determinants in Online MBA Program Selection: An Exploratory Study” which has been accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Management in Education*.

Another MBA student, Linda Dahskold, has been awarded COBA’s First Place in the 2010 Graduate Research Symposium sponsored by the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. Her research paper focused on how European countries have been impacted by adoption of the EURO.

The MBA Program continues to flourish and the prospects for continued success are fantastic! If you are an MBA alum, we would love to hear your feedback or success stories. You can find us on LinkedIn under the group name, “Georgia Southern COBA MBA Students and Alumni” or become a fan of our Facebook group, “Georgia Southern University MBA Program.” You can also drop us an email at mba@georgiasouthern.edu.

Have a great summer! ◆

*Melissa Holland*

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**MSCS Degree Approved**

The Board of Regents has approved a new online Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS) degree in the College of Information Technology (CIT). The new master degree program places an emphasis on data mining and warehousing and will prepare students for industry and technology positions, including data warehouse managers and architects, business intelligence engineers, database application developers, and principle data analysts. The MSCS is a 30-hour degree program that can be completed by taking two courses a semester for five semesters. Classes for the new program will begin this fall.

The MSCS program is the latest addition to Georgia Southern’s growing list of exclusively-online programs opening educational opportunities for working professionals and non-traditional students. It is the first graduate degree to be offered by CIT, since its inception in 2003. In a short time, the College has become a leader in information technology education, being one of the first institutions in the world to offer VMware virtualization certification and recently recognized by *The Princeton Review* for its undergraduate game design program, ranked one of the top in the U.S. and Canada. This program is an important step for CIT because of the increasing demand for IT professionals.” Dean Ronald Shiffler explained. Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel added, “This is another example of how Georgia Southern professionals will have a significant impact on business and industry in Georgia. It is clear the College of Information Technology’s presence will help attract new industry.” ◆

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**WebMBA® Update**

The Georgia WebMBA® program is prominently featured on the main page of the GetEducated.com web site as one of the Top Picks for Online Degrees. While the program has been identified in the top 20 Best Buys for quality and competitive pricing among AACSB programs by *Get Educated.com* in the past, this is the first time we have been recognized as a Top Pick house.

Known for its quality, affordability, and student commitment, the Georgia WebMBA® is among the top-ranked online MBAs offering professionals the opportunity to earn an accredited, accelerated online MBA degree without interrupting their work and personal lives. The WebMBA® is offered by six University System of Georgia schools, all accredited by AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the premier accrediting body for business degree programs. Students benefit from a web-based MBA program with the same quality and service as our on-campus programs. Tuition rates are significantly lower than at most AACSB-accredited schools. Applicants without undergraduate degrees in Business Administration benefit from self-paced, pre-program modules.

The Georgia WebMBA® program has been recognized in *U.S. News & World Report*, *Business Week* online, *The Princeton Review*, and USA Today. ◆

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**MAcc: Fraud and Forensics Conference**

The 4th annual Fraud and Forensic Accounting Conference sponsored by Georgia Southern’s Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business and Porter Keade Moore, LLP, was held at the J.W. Marriott, Buckhead, May 13-15. The conference linked educators, practitioners, and students in developing academic and professional skills in fraud examination and forensic accounting, including interviewing techniques, data analysis, e-discovery, transaction monitoring, detection of Ponzi schemes, feeder funds, financial cheats, and divorce fraud.

The 20-hour CPE program included nationally-recognized keynote speakers: 
- Former FBI Special Agent Joe Dooley, now with KPMG, who helped catch conman Martin Frankel,
- Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Nolan, mortgage fraud prosecutor,
- Richard Barry, Sobel & Co., who led several successful investigations in the New Jersey Bureau of Securities,
- Scott Hilsen, Alston & Bird, who helps investigators avoid legal pitfalls in fraud investigations, and
- Francine McKenna, whose investigative website “re: The Auditors” takes a critical look at the role of the audit and accounting industry in global capital markets.

Registrants submitting papers are eligible for publication in the *Journal of Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business* under peer-review guidelines. ◆

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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://cobab.georgiasouthern.edu/grad.htm.
Asbury Stembridge

W. Asbury Stembridge, Jr. (FIN, 1977), The Stembridge Agency, assists healthcare professionals in career and professional skills placement. With 23 years of hospital experience, including 12 years in physician services and recruitment, Asbury provides career agent services to physicians, mid-level providers, health information technologists, pharmacists, senior level managers, and hospitals. The agency is associated with a nationwide network of providers that match employment positions with professionals seeking career opportunities. Additionally, The Stembridge Agency offers cost containment, government relations, and legal consultation programs to hospitals.

Tim Wilkerson

Tim Wilkerson (MGT, 1991) joined The Home Depot in May 1996 as an assistant store manager and has since held numerous positions, including general manager, director of logistics, senior director of supply chain, and district manager. In September 2009, Tim was promoted to regional vice president, responsible for 129 stores in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, including approximately 13,500 associates. Prior to joining The Home Depot, Tim gained experience in the supply chain business at Best Buy and Wal-Mart.

Joycelyn Dorsey

Joycelyn Dorsey (MKT, 1987) is currently an area director of Clayton State University’s Small Business Development Center in Morrow.

Kyle Hensel

Kyle Hensel (MBA, 2003) is currently area director of Clayton State University’s Small Business Development Center in Morrow.

Joycelyn is a consumer marketer and business development professional with more than fifteen years of experience across the food, health & beauty aids, beverage, and IT industries.

Joycelyn is employed by Intel Corporation as a senior marketing manager–global product launch team leader, responsible for strategic global product introductions with budgets from $1.2-$2.3 million.

Prior to joining Intel Corporation, she worked for The Coca-Cola Company, McCormick & Company, Unilever Bestfoods N.A., and Colgate-Palmolive Company, encompassing nine years of brand portfolio management, five years of agency management, and three years of multicultural marketing, new product development, and concept testing.

Asbury and wife, Helen Gibson Stembridge (BSED, 1978), live in Macon and have two children, Asbury, III, and Laura. Helen and Asbury are longtime supporters of Georgia Southern and active, participating members of the College of Business Advisory board.

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November 6
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COBA’s Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics. In 2005, he was awarded the Ron & Barbara Shiffler Instructor Award. He later accepted a position as a business consultant in COBA’s Small Business Development Center.

In 2008, he left Statesboro to accept his current position at Clayton State. Kyle is the host of the Georgia SBDC Network’s webinar, “Starting a New Business.” This short seminar is designed to provide an overview of the key elements involved in starting a business. It addresses financing options, market assessment, legal structures, record-keeping, and other topics critical to establishing an entrepreneurial venture.

Kyle resides in McDonough.
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The world is constantly changing and the business world is no exception. One constant, a great equalizer among imbalances of rapid change, is education. Donating to COBA opens new doors of acquaintance, fellowship, and enlightenment; offers opportunity to meet new and interesting people; encourages thinking in critical and technical ways; and simply makes you feel good! Do it now, donate to COBA!

#2 Leverage

COBA!
The 2010 Awards of Excellence for faculty and staff were presented at a ceremony held at the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building on April 9, 2010.

The Eugene A. Bishop Award for Sustained Excellence
Michael Reksulak

In the seven years Dr. Michael Reksulak has been at Georgia Southern, he has exemplified himself as a researcher, teacher, and member of the academic community. Foremost, Michael has produced an outstanding stream of high quality publications in the top journals in his fields of public finance and industrial regulation. His scholarly articles have appeared in Public Choice, Southern Economic Journal, Theory and Decision, Economics and Politics, Constitutional Political Economy, and Public Finance and Management.

As a teacher, he is respected by his colleagues and his students. He is known for making high demands on his students’ intellect, while providing the support they need to succeed. Graduate students describe his mathematical economics course as exceptional. Michael’s teaching success is anchored in his relentless pursuit of excellence, both for himself and his students.

He is engaged in activities that enrich the teaching and learning experience, including being a Georgia Governor’s Teaching Fellow 2008-09 and a Center for Excellence in Teaching Faculty Learning Community facilitator for the past two years.

In service, Michael has served on the Faculty Senate, Senate Executive Committee, and COBA Strategic Planning Council. His “Free Enterprise” column in the Savannah Morning News helps the average citizen interface the worlds of economics and politics. His opinion on public policy has been cited by the Savannah Morning News and the Atlanta Journal Constitution and he is a frequent participant in guest lectures and public forums in the regional community.

Michael is a research fellow at the Independent Institute, a scholarly research and educational organization evaluating critical social and economic issues, and a board member of the Melton Foundation, an international network of university fellows committed to positive change through inter-cultural training, leadership development, and global education.

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service in the MBA
Constance Campbell

Dr. Constance Campbell was selected for the Rutherford Award on the basis of her dedication to the MBA program. She has taught in the MBA and WebMBA™ programs for years and was an innovative leader when COBA began offering MBA courses online almost a decade ago, creating web-based courses in her field of expertise.

Constance developed a unique opportunity for on-line students to participate in a study abroad trip to Europe—an atypical experience in the WebMBA™ program. Students characterize her as “enthusiastic and well-prepared” while her colleagues view her as a team-player and frequently look to her for feedback and support on important issues facing her department and the college.

The CIT Award for Excellence in Teaching
Shawne Zuber

Shawne Zuber earned a BA in computer science from Georgia Southern in 2001 and has held progressive positions at Georgia Southern since. His primary support role with the College of IT started in 2003, before the IT building had been completed. He was involved in the setup and installation of all the computers in the building. Today, he continues to make sure student, faculty, and staff technology needs are met, including weekend assignments to make sure labs are ready for classes on Monday morning.

Shawne wears many hats in the IT building. He is “maintainer of order when something is wrong in the halls, he is "physical plant" when people lock themselves out of their offices, and he is "Mr. IT" whenever anything goes wrong with the computers. While the job can be demanding, Shawne meets everyone’s needs with a pleasant attitude, even those not IT-related.

The CIT Staff Award for Excellence
Bill Yang

Dr. Bill Yang is a quiet superstitious, a theorist who takes a unique approach to teaching, and a researcher who never writes a word. As a result, he has built a solid reputation as a leading scholar in economics education, publishing eight journal articles in the last five years in leading journals, including the Journal of Economic Education and Journal of Economics and Finance Education. One by one, Bill offers economics educators a fresh look at fundamental economic concepts, helping to improve conceptual clarity in the classroom. His work has, and will continue to have a lasting impact on all students of economics. Bill maintains strong collaborative research partnerships with colleagues and serves as co-editor of the Journal of Economics and Finance Education.

Bill takes his teaching seriously; it is available for consultation outside of class, and devotes considerable time and energy to improving his teaching effectiveness through regular participation in professional development activities, including workshops on learner centeredness and creating learning communities in the classroom.

His outstanding record of service includes the Faculty Senate, COBA Governance Committee, University Graduate Committee, University Grievance Committee, and University Faculty Welfare Committee.

Rashonda Bostic is an academic advisor in the Student Services Center who works extremely hard to provide the best possible experience for students. She has excellent job knowledge, consistently looks for ways to improve herself through training, and is a leader in the Student Services Center and her community.

In addition to her responsibilities as an academic advisor, Rashonda regularly attends Student’s Orientation, Advisement, and Registration—SOAR—programs held throughout the academic year; recruiting events such as Open House, Dessert Receptions, and Scholars Day; makes presentations to students and parents; and evaluates transcripts. She assists with other campus events including the COBA/CIT Graduation Reception, graduation ceremonies, and the Majors Fair.

Rashonda volunteers with local area youth, ages 2 to 18, for leadership, self-esteem, and educational development training each summer, is an annual participant in the Relay for Life event, and is a participant in a number of other community activities in the Statesboro area.

The W. A. & Emma Lou Crider Award for Excellence in Teaching
Jackie Eastman

Dr. Jackie Eastman, while a relative newcomer to COBA, has more than twenty years teaching experience. Since arriving at Georgia Southern, she has ranked in the top three Marketing, Management, & Logistics faculty on student evaluations of instruction. This is exceptional, since this faculty member teaches one of the most difficult courses in the major each semester. Students find her always well prepared, concerned for students, available outside of class, and of cheerful demeanor.

The CIT Award for Distinguished Service
Manouch Tabatabaei

Dr. Manouch Tabatabaei approaches his service as an opportunity to demonstrate professionalism, diligence, and collegiability. His most visible service role is as Business and Information Technology Seminar coordinator, an ongoing seminar series in which faculty members from COBA and CIT make presentations about their current and future research.

Manouch, as chair of the department’s marketing committee, is also the leader in marketing the information systems (IS) degree. Since 2007, the number of IS majors has almost tripled as he makes presentations to BUSA 1105—Introduction to Business sections and generates personalized e-mails to prospective students each semester.

Manouch serves on the University Calendar and Faculty Welfare Committee, has served on COBA’s and CIT’s Graduate Curriculum Committees, and CIT’s Governance and Development, Promotion, and Tenure Committees. Currently, his service to the IS discipline includes Track Chair for the 2009 International Decision Science Institute (IDS) Conference and journal reviewer.
Faculty awards are based upon a variety of characteristics including research activities, teaching excellence, distinguished service, and development potential.

The Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service
Camille F. Rogers
Dr. Camille Rogers has earned a solid reputation across campus through her service on the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Comprehensive Program Review Task Force, and University Honors Committee. She has served CIT as chair of the college’s Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, member of the Dean Search Committee, and on the Strategic Planning Council. In COBA, Camille served on the Assessment Committee. In the IS department, she is chair of the Honors and Recognition Committee and serves as Internship and Co-op Coordinator. Extensively, Camille is presently serving as SAS President and 2010 Conference Coordinator.

In the local community, Camille has led the community and region to record setting Girl Scout cookie sales. She is president of the Statesboro High School Band Booster Club and is active in the Academic Boosters Club and its Technical and Agricultural Education Advisory Committee. In her church, Camille is an adult leader with Eastern Heights Baptist AWANA Youth Club.

CIT Award for Outstanding Research
Jordan D. Shropshire

The Charles R. Gibbs Faculty Award
Dena Hale
Dr. Dena Hale is constantly operating at “high speed.” Known for energy, creativity, student engagement, a constant smile, and positive attitude, she is never at a loss for projects to engage her students. She is a high-performance teacher, always willing to spend extra time with students out of class, and constantly seeking new ways to engage them in the classroom. Dena has an excellent record of research and publication and enjoys working with peers on research and service projects.

The T. J. Morris, Jr., Faculty Award for Outstanding Research
Xiaolong Zhang
Dr. Xiaolong “Jonathan” Zhang joined COBA as a member of the faculty in 2005. With academic degrees in physics, economics, and statistics as well as practical research experience with AT&T in bundled-services marketing, customer loyalty programs, and multi-media markets modeling, Jonathan is a versatile researcher. His technical mathematical modeling skills, applied in classroom exercises, also makes him an excellent teacher. Academically, his publications and presentations at professional meetings have been recognized as outstanding and include such topics as sustainability, innovative education, forecasting, inventory control, and supply chain coordination.

The Bank of America Faculty Award
Amanda King
Dr. Amanda King is a solid teacher who continues to experiment with innovations in the classroom. Last year, she developed a very successful co-curricular online Master of Science in Applied Economics program that helped to boost students’ confidence in the program at a critical point in its development. In addition, she has a well-established research agenda on the relationship between consumer preferences and the choice between debit and credit transactions. Amanda has an outstanding commitment to student engagement and advises three student organizations. She is a team player who takes her commitment to the School of Economic Development and the College of Business seriously.

The M. Albert Burke Faculty Award
Joseph S. Ruhland
Dr. Joe Ruhland joined the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis in 2006 and made an immediate impact on the risk management and insurance (RM&I) program and students. He has chaired the RM&I Scholarship Committee over the past three years and worked with students to apply for and earn national recognition through these awards and scholarships. Joe’s personal financial planning course, while challenging, is a favorite elective for finance majors. He has published three journal articles and has several others under review.

The Brown & Williamson Faculty Award
Timothy Cairney
Dr. Tim Cairney has just completed his seventh year at Georgia Southern. During the last five years, he has published nine articles in refereed, nationally recognized journals. He teaches in the WebbMBA® and is noted for incorporating SAP into his courses. He has served on the Graduate Curriculum Committee and as a faculty advisor for the Key Club.

The Sonny Butler CIT Award of Excellence
John R. O’Malley, Jr.
This year, the Eagle Executive Society Faculty Award is presented to Dr. Donna Fisher. Against great odds and with little financial support, she planned and organized a study abroad trip to Botswana. This is the first cooperation between Georgia Southern and a university on the African continent and Georgia Southern’s first study abroad trip to Africa. The activities and challenges associated with organizing a trip of this scale are clearly beyond the call of duty and have required great personal commitment and sacrifice. Exposure to and understanding of different cultures is priceless for students. Without a doubt, the trip to Botswana will bring about life-changing experiences for students in a manner that is impossible to replicate. One of the main goals of the trip is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the role of micro finance in economic development. Students will work with a community to develop a business plan to expand a business venture. In addition, Donna took on a significant advisory role with students in the online MSAE program. Her outreach to and support of MSAE students through constant communication and attempts at community building has been exceptional.
Dean’s Citations for Student Engagement

The Dean’s Citations spotlight faculty who engage students in exceptional activities, events, and projects beyond what is expected in a class.

Donald L. Berecz, Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business
As a former FBI agent, Don keeps his students enthralled with stories of how accounting applies in the real world. Each year, he and the Internal Revenue Service put together a fraud case for the students to work on. Some gather information, others prepare the write-ups, and all present evidence to solve the case. This year, a rare opportunity presented for fraud students in his class to visit the Federal Law Enforcement Training Facility in Brunswick.

Karen L. Hamilton, Risk Management and Insurance Leadership
Karen teaches estate management and financial institutions. She is secretary/treasurer for Beta Gamma Sigma and serves on the Risk Management and Insurance Scholarship Committee. Karen, along with a student award recipient, recently represented Georgia Southern at the national Risk and Insurance Management Society conference in Boston.

John T. King, ODE and the Economics Club
John has been advisor to Omicron Delta Epsilon since 2004 and advisor to the Economics Club since 2008. He has taken a deep personal interest in the success and advancement of these students, including assisting with planning and execution of an annual trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Christopher O. Leverett, Advanced Business Applications
Christopher’s “students first” attitude is reflected in his department record of almost 400 advanced business applications computer applications students in a single semester. His students describe him as a “passionate” lecturer and persistent proponent of Excel certification. And, more than 70 percent of his students earn the certification on their first attempt.

Timur Z. Mirzoev, VMware IT Academy
In 2008, Timur was responsible for the College of Information Technology being the 1st 4-year university to become a VMware IT Academy and being named the “World’s First International VMware Academy Center” in 2010. Faculty from other universities will be attracted to Georgia Southern to learn how to teach this cutting edge technology and receive an official VMware instruction certification for their program.

Robert P. Cook, Lego Robots and Computer STARS Competitions
Bob is a regional coordinator for Lego Robots competition, which involves students from a variety of area schools. He also directs the Computer STARS Competition, a high-tech competition involving middle and high school students from around Georgia.

Honors Day

The COBA and CIT awards presented at Honors Day and the names of the recipients are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accountancy</th>
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<td>Ryan A. Lewis</td>
<td>Upsilon Pi Epsilon:</td>
<td>Award for Excellence in Achievement: Economies of the Free Market: Britanny Robinson</td>
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<td>Karley L. Wiener</td>
<td>Christian Andrews</td>
<td>Award: Antuan Wilson</td>
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<td>The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award: Jessica L. Murray</td>
<td>Daniel Davis</td>
<td>Award: Antuan Wilson</td>
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<td>Christine Risberg</td>
<td>Award for Excellence in Achievement: Economies of the Free Market: Britanny Robinson</td>
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<td>SED Award for Academic Distinction: Dana Velasquez</td>
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<td>Dana Velasquez</td>
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<td>Jason Wilmot</td>
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<td>Aaron Wilson</td>
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<th>Management, Marketing, &amp; Logistics</th>
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<td>Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr.</td>
<td>Information Technology Award for Excellence, Outstanding Graduate in Information Technology: Christina Larson</td>
<td>Human Resource Management Award: Morgan Cannon</td>
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<td>Information Systems Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: David Styer</td>
<td>Tailored Business Systems Information Systems Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: Andrew Weber</td>
<td>Top Management Student Award: Susan Oglesby</td>
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<td>Outstanding Marketing Student Award: Jessica Geiger</td>
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<td>Sack Company Marketing Service Award: Andrew Sears</td>
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<td>Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: Katelyn Dearing, Andrew Sears</td>
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<td>Georgia Retail Association Scholarship in Marketing: Katherine Crider, Jennifer Falk</td>
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| Financial Guaranty Corporation: Tyler Dillon, Mallory Mitchell | First Southern Top Student in Sales Award: Donaven Lowe | Logistics & Intermodal Transportation Award: Skylar Bratcher |                                      |
|                                                             | Jane White Memorial Marketing Scholarship: Kyle J. Randall | Charette Scholarships: JoAnna Maria Kyser, Jessica L. Perdue |                                      |
|                                                             | Society for Human Resource Management, Savannah Chapter: Alyssa Oravec, Danae Flatford | Women’s Network George and Catherine Peacock Graduate Scholarship: Elena J. Bencini |                                      |
|                                                             | Delta Sigma Pi Outstanding Scholar Graduating Senior Award: Erica K. Frederick | Aspire2Retail Intercollegiate Competition: Anna Rhoades |                                      |
|                                                             | Ma Kappa Tau Marketing National Honor Society: Travis Anderson, Karrie Clater, Katelyn Dearing, Jessica Geiger, Brittany Lovingood, Megan Moreau, Chelsea Price, Alisa S. Rand, Kyle Randall, Mark Reith, Andrew Sears |                                      |
The newest board members are (standing, l-r) Joe Doyle, Wes Sherrell, Phil Robertson, and (sitting, l-r) Bill Donaldson, Scott Hilsen, and Laurie Dyke.

Members of the Forensic Accounting Board met February 2-3 and, later, attended the 7th Annual Forensic Accounting Lecture. Board members included Phil Robertson, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of Inspector General, Scott Hilsen, Alston & Bird, LLP, Wes Sherrell, Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts; Chuck Owens, Ernst & Young, LLP; Jaclyn Zappacosta, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Joe Doyle, Georgia Governor’s Office of Consumer Affairs; Chris Edwards, Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker, LLC; Jim Robnett, Internal Revenue Service; Larry Wiley, Branch Banking & Trust Company; Marc Effron, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services; John Shurley, Gifford, Hillgass & Ingwersen, LLP; Bill Donaldson, Georgia Inspector General’s Office; Scott Phillips, Walmart Stores, Inc.; Laurie Dyke, The Investigative Accounting Group; Stephen Spiers, KPMG, LLP; Marjorie Maguire-Krupp, Institute of Internal Auditors; William Griffin, U.S. Secret Service; Sandy Peavey, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; Pat Braley, Bennett Thrasher, PC; Herbert Campbell, Securities and Exchange Commission; and Matt Duke, Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Forensic accounting graduate students made presentations to the board. Presenting students were Brandi Odum, “Ponzi schemes, the IRS, and clawback;” Lee Selling, “The jump to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center;” Deborah Tookes, “KPMG’s: Lots of Books, Inc, Fraud Investigation;” Justin Reynolds, “Observing expert witness testimony in Trinidad;” and Amber May, “Mock civil trial at Bulloch County Courthouse.”

The Forensic Accounting Lecture

Phil M. Robertson, special agent, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Office of Inspector General presented the School of Accountancy’s capstone. The five undergraduate students in the course.

The prerequisites for these courses is simply one accounting course. Graduate students in the MAC 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 MAC program.

William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture

The second annual William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture Series was convened by Dr. Luke Pittaway, distinguished chair in Free Enterprise and director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership at the Newcomen Lane Assembly Hall, in April. Dean Ron Shiffer welcomed guests and introduced special guest, Dr. Harry S. Carter, provost and professor of management and director of the Eastern Regional Office of the FDIC. Shaffer also introduced keynote speaker Jimmy Childre, Jr.

Jimmy Childre is president and chief executive officer of Childre Ford and Mercury, Sanderville, and chief executive officer of the Washington County Regional Medical Center. He is past chair of the Atlanta District Ford Dealers Association and past vice chair of Ford’s 12-member National Dealer Council.

Childre earned his BBA, accounting from Georgia Southern; the global executive MBA, health sector manage- ment from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business; a master of studies from the University of Cambridge’s Judge Business School; and chief executive certification from the Harvard Business School management program. He serves as a director of the Citizens Bank of Washington County, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and Georgia Southern Foundation; and, as vice chair of the Georgia Chamber’s Health Care Committee, member of a congressional health care advisory group and the state’s Executive Health Care Roundtable. An active Rotarian, Jimmy is past president of the Sandersville Rotary Club, past district lieutenant governor, international Group Study Exchange leader, and Paul Harris Fellow. He received COBA’s Alumnus of the Year Award in 1993, was Georgia Southern’s Beta Gamma Sigma honoree in 2000, and was named Washington County Citizen of the Year in 2009.

Childre’s address, “Keys to Leadership: Knowing Your Product and Customer,” identified similarities between his auto dealership’s emergence as a survivor during the recessions of the 1980’s and the Sandersville hospital’s recent refocus on its medical professionals as facilitators of technologic change. He focused on the importance of customer and product knowledge in facilitating to meet customer needs, identifying key points of cost accounting, quality control, and employee empowerment as being common to both entrepreneurial leadership opportunities he had experienced. Childre concluded, “leading through the changes is by far the hardest part,” emphasizing that “trust and fairness are pre-requisite requirements for success in economic and technological change.”

The William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture Series honors William A. Freeman, a 1957 graduate of Georgia Southern, who was president, chief financial officer, and director of Watkins Associated Industries and managing partner of Wilwat Properties, Atlanta. Freeman is the benefactor of William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair in Free Enterprise, which brings world-class scholars to campus; the Freeman Business Scholars Program, which provides four-year scholarships to business majors; ten endowed scholarships in the University Honors Program; and, endowed sponsorship of COBA’s Professor of the Year Award. He was named COBA Alumnus of the Year in 1991, inducted into the COBA Hall of Fame in 1998, and was awarded Georgia Southern’s Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award and an honorary Doctorate of Letters in 1999.

The Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership is a focal point for students, alumni entrepreneurs, local small businesses, and faculty interested in venture creation, business growth, and local economic development. It is designed to enable students to learn about entrepreneurship, help them start businesses, and work with entre- preneurs. Dr. Pittaway earned his BA (Hons) from the University of Huddersfield and Ph.D. from the University of Newcastle in the United Kingdom. He came to Georgia Southern from the University of Sheffield where he was director of enterprise education, Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise Development and Director of Research, Centre of Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of Enterprise.
Melanie A. Weber (2000), formerly in Forsyth, is now in Macon, where she is a vice president with SunTrust Bank, Macon. She is married to Michael Marshall.

Scott D. Henley (2002), formerly in Grayson, is now in Hoschton, where he is the general manager for Acura Carland, Duluth. Scott was one of our good baseball players. He is married to Karri Campbell.

Dr. Michael Dellingw (2003), formerly in Sulzbach, Germany, is now in Kassel, Germany, where he is a lecturer in sociology at the University of Kassel. He received his MA and PhD in social science from the University of Kassel. Email: dellimg@tum-kassel.de.

Grayson C. Kelly (2007), formerly in Tifton, is now in Young Harris, where he is the store manager for The Sherwin-Williams Co. Email: grayson_kelly@yahoo.com.

Jennifer R. Trahan (2007), Fayetteville, is an accountant with Grant Thornton, Atlanta. Email: jennifer.fields@gmail.com.

Gary Matthew Price (2006), Roanoke, VA, is a Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: gprice@bgsu.edu.

William P. “Bill” Barrett, Jr. (1990), Savannah, is a master firefighter with the Savannah Fire Dept. Email: sfeng50@Gmail.com.

Stella Massee Griffith (1967), Statesboro, has retired as a teacher, realtor, bank director, and land developer in Effingham County. She is married to Coach Bob Griffin, and they are the parents of three Georgia Southern graduates. Email: rgriffin@bulloch.net.

Information Systems

James S. Hampton (1990), formerly in Pennsylvania, is now in Manhattan, MT, where he is the manager of information systems and telecom for the Bowman Deaconess Hospital, Bozeman, MT. His wife is Cheryl. Email: hamptonb@dhh-bd.com.

Wesley J. Chrishan (2008), Springfield, is the network administrator for WSAV TV, Savannah. Email: wchristian@wsav.com.

Information Tech

Gary Matthew Price (2006), Roanoke, VA, a senior IT technician for the Roanoke Higher Ed Center, is engaged to Carolina Elisabeth Camp, a Georgia Southern public relations graduate. A September wedding is planned.

William David Craig (2001), formerly in Cumming, is now in Atlanta, where he is the manager, transportation operations for Cox Communications. Email: david.craig1@cox.com

Travis E. Timms (2001), formerly in Sylvania, is now in Savannah, where he is the director of logistics for Gypsum Logics. He is married to Ashley Lytjen. Email: travistimms@cox.com.

Philip L. Griffin (2005), formerly in Sylvester, is now in Atlanta, where he is the terminal manager for Tennessee Commercial Warehouse (TCW), Birmingham, AL. He is married to Samantha Thomson, a 2006 Georgia Southern psychology major. Email: philgriffin16@yahoo.com.

Jenni M. Salerno (2008), Marietta, is an account executive for FedEx. Conley. Email: jenni.salerno@fedex.com.

Evan N. Patrick (2009), Greensboro, NC, is the driver manager for Epic Carriers. He is married to Amanda Kindig, a 2009 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: evan.n.pattick@gmail.com.

Management

Maureen Hedlund (1983), Lawrenceville, is a staff accountant for Waffle House, Norcross. Email: mhedlund@bellsouth.net.

Cathy Heminger Sanders (1983), formerly in Griffin, is now in Newnan, where she is the sales analysis manager for Coca-Cola, Atlanta. She is married to Steve Sanders.

Jessica Carter Castle (1999), Decatur, started her own healthcare marketing and PR firm—Castle Communications—two years ago. She is married to Craig Castle and has four children, Paty (9), Josh (7), Lily Kate (2), and Conner (1). Email: jessicacastle@bellsouth.net.

Chad A. Yarbrough (1999), Guyton, is vice president of Yarbrough Enterprises, Inc., Savannah. Email: chad@yarbroughenterprises.com.

Suzanne Marie Spires (2002), Register, is an advertising account executive with Northland Cable Co., Statesboro, is engaged to Jacob R. Hallman, a Georgia Southern music graduate. A May 29, 2010, wedding is planned.

C. Drew Smith (2003), formerly in Dalton, is now in Gainesville, where he is in outside sales for Stock Building Supply, Tucker. He is married to Alyssa Dennis, and they have two sons, Charlie (5) and Conner (3). They are expecting a third son, Hudson, in June. Email: drew.smith@stocksupply.com.

Thomas C. Avant (2005), Sandersville, has completed an MBA from Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville. Email: thomas_c_avant@yahoo.com.

Kendall L. Blankumse (2004), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Quitman, where he is the co-owner of Blankumse, Thomas, & Wright Funeral Services. He received his funeral services associate degree from Ogeechee Technical College. Kendall recently married J. Ray Barnes, a 2009 LaGrange College graduate.

C. Daniel Blizzard, Jr. (2006), formerly in Montezuma, is now in Oglethorpe, where he is a technology specialist for the Macon County Board of Education. Email: dbblizard@macan.k12.ga.us.
Eagle Executive Society Alumni Questionnaire

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 Full 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 ( ) Cell ( )

Employer ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Business Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

City ______ State ______ Zip ______

E-Mail Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Preferred Address for delivery Home Office ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please complete this form and return it to Lewis Stewart, COBA Alumni Editor, P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002.
The Fourth Annual Community Bank Symposium, co-sponsored by the Georgia Bankers Association and COBA’s Center for Excellence in Financial Services, was held March 24, 2010, at Forest Heights Country Club in Statesboro. The event provided regional bank administrators, bank officers, and board members an opportunity to hear leading speakers address today’s banking challenges. This year’s symposium hosted a record 91 participants from 32 banks, including 24 CEO board presidents, 29 CFOs, 4 board chairs, as well as several CPA and law firm partners.

Roger Tutterow, professor of economics, Mercer University, kicked off the program by providing the state and national economic outlooks. A regulatory panel of Rob Braswell, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance; Jimmy DeVane, United States Office of Comptroller of the Currency; and Tim Hubby, Atlanta office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, provided insights on financial regulatory policies and recent trends.

Brad Washburn and Stewart Thigpen, Steve H. Powell and Co., followed with a discussion of new regulatory guidelines and compliance issues affecting financial institutions. Joe Brannen, president of the Georgia Bankers Association, was the luncheon, keynote speaker. Finally, Tim Keadle, CPA and managing partner of Porter, Keadle, and Moore of Atlanta, identified accounting issues and regulations affecting Georgia banks and financial institutions.

Edward H. Sibbald, director of the Center for Excellence in Financial Services, observed, “The Annual Banking Symposium has provided a valuable and informative forum for community bankers in the South-eastern Georgia region.” Next year’s symposium is tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2011.

### Special Providence: Ori James and Annie Sula Brannen Moxley

The College of Business Administration lost two elder statespersons this spring when Dr. Origen J. James, Jr., dean emeritus, age 78, and Mrs. Annie Ursula Brannen Moxley, assistant professor emerita, age 79, passed away.

Dean Emeritus James

It was under Dean James’s leadership that COBA first earned accreditation from AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, for its undergraduate and graduate business programs and charter sponsorship for its business honorary society, Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS). At the 25th anniversary of BGS, Ori shared the story:

In 1976, we undertook the required AACSB self-study, submitted the application, and received a “no visit” recommendation. Rules stipulate a dean’s specific visit request cannot be denied, so I asked for a visit. The visit lasted three days, and, upon departure, the team was not permitted to disclose their recommendation. At the 1977 AACSB meeting in Toronto, Canada, Dean Dick Peebler, Drake University, chair of the accreditation committee, made the official accreditation announcement. Later, in 1981, the MBA program was accredited, a prerequisite for a BGS Charter, which was issued the same year.

Ori was a long-time member of the AACSB accreditation body and president of the Southern Business Administration Association. He served the Statesboro Rotary, Farmers and Merchants Bank board, and First Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder.

Annie Ursula Brannen Moxley, or Annie Sula, as she was fondly known on campus, was a graduate of Stetson University, received a master degree in business from Georgia State University, and taught business communications at Eastern Kentucky University and Georgia Southern for many years.

Annie Sula was a business- and philanthropic-minded individual, who cared for others and gave years of happiness and love to those who knew her.

She was a longtime member of Statesboro First United Methodist Church, where the special honor of Quiet Disciple was bestowed by the United Methodist Women. She was a member of the Adam Brinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Colonies, the Spade and Trowel Garden Club, and recipient of the Zeta Tau Alpha White Violet Pin representing 50 years membership in Zeta.

Annie Sula’s legacy is carried on by her niece, Lynda Brannen Williamson, who enjoys teaching economics in COBA, in addition to her full-time career at Georgia Power, community, bank, and church service, and family responsibilities.

### COBANs Make 20 Under 40 List

Brandon Blair, 180 Fitness

Kim Brannen, Sea Island Bank

Will Britt, Boy Scouts

Rachel Edwards, Wright & Edwards, PC

Ashley Ellis, Blount, Burke, Winburne & Hendricks

Ryan Foley, Ogeechee Technical College

The Statesboro Herald honored Bulloch County’s best and brightest in its 20 under 40 feature. These six COBA alumni were featured in the listing.

### Spring 2010 Graduation by the Numbers

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