Eagle Executive

Spring 2010

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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 requires a 60-credit hour curriculum in two years of full-time classroom study followed by a classical dissertation format. Candidates will be challenged as they learn to conduct research, teach in the classroom, and understand the dynamics of the logistics and SCM field. It is a challenging 3-to-4 year undertaking that will benefit and mature candidates as they progress through the program.

This fall, COBA and Georgia Southern, a Carnegie Foundation doctoral research university, will be welcoming the junior colleagues of their first Ph.D. class.

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.

Kiplinger’s bases its rankings on academic quality and affordability of tuition. Specifically, data from public four-year colleges and universities are narrowed to a list of 120 on measures of academic quality—including SAT and ACT scores, admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates. The list is then ranked on cost and financial aid, finally, weighing academic approximates 2/3 and cost approximately 1/3.

Record numbers of students apply to Georgia Southern to take advantage of our nationally-ranked programs, including those in the Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology,” said Keel.

COBA logistics is ranked 15th nationally, IT game design is ranked in the top 50 U.S. and Canadian programs by The Princeton Review, and the IT VMware Academy is one of ten in the world offering virtualization technology certification.

Georgia Southern is a top choice for Georgia’s HOPE scholars and one of the four Georgia schools to be ranked by Kiplinger’s this year.
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 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 GetEducated.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 three weeks of pain, but, after that, you are home free. It is really great to be able to put on my socks by myself!

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 refereed 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,
Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Keyleene Burgess, a junior honors program finance major, attended the 2010 meeting of the Southern Academy of Legal Studies in Business, held in San Antonio in March, and presented a paper entitled, “Avoiding Lawsuits in Academe: The Customer Service Solution.” While there, Keyleene participated in a South-Western Legal Studies Business focus group, “Assessing Student Comprehension in Your Business Law Course” to develop innovative teaching solutions for business law and legal environment of business courses.

In collaboration with Le Von Wilson, professor, SOA, Keyleene 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 (SAP) 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 Free Enterprise, has been elected to the board of the Lowcountry Small Business Hub. The hub provides fast-track 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 an enterprise. It included Lynn Lilly, The Lilly Group, marketing communications, Statesboro; Phillip Jennings, Jennings Turf Farm and Sunbelt Biofuels, producers, Soperton; and, Allen Rice, Savannah Luggage Works, manufacturers, Vidalia.

Bennie Curl, CEO of Byrd Cookie Company, hosted Professor Emeritus Horace Harrell who was honored as the 2009 Kiwanian 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 alumus.

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 Texton 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 hwright@georgiasouthern.edu.

School of Accounting

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 Maps;” Brandi Odum 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.

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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 Programming with a Little OpenGL for Fun. Chair Jim Pittaway, professor, and Holy Ricks, software engineering class joined M&L Associate Professor Misty Loughry’s strategic management class to introduce “Accounting Jumble,” a fun and interactive web-based educational experience for business students to read, learn, and understand financial statements.

Lixin Li, assistant professor, has also published a book, Spatialtemporal Interpolation Methods in GIS—Exploring Data for Decision Making.

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 Grovenstein 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.

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. Leapprof Stated Tenured
Karl B. Maurer 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. Mullen Tenured
John R. O’Hare, 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 in 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 were presented to Mengyin Dong, John Hotuling, Christina Payne, Karl Dorsey, and Richard Minshew from the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; and Pamela Harrington, Kristen Bricht, Trey Burgamy, Wesley Cone, and Tyler Youman from the Southeast Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs, respectively.

The Coastal Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs awarded scholarships to Brendan Adams and Tyne Owens.

The Savannah Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants presented its Academic Distinction Award to Ryan Lewis. Jessica Murray received the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award for being the School of Accountancy’s top graduating senior.

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The nation’s third largest quick service restaurant company, Wendy’s Arby’s Group, had a seasoned industry executive, Hala Moddelmog, return to Arby’s in 1995, she became the first woman to lead a major international restaurant company. The company out performed 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 Moddelmog Returns to Arby’s

Hala Moddelmog

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Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS), the honor society sponsored by AACSB International, The Association to Advance 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 Georgi a Southern, she oversaw the addition of three doctoral degrees, facilitated the establishment of the Colleges 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.

Only business schools that have earned AACSB accreditation are eligible to have BGS chapters. Inductees to this society receive the highest recognition business students worldwide may receive. The mission of BGS is “to encourage and honor academic achievement in the study of business, to foster personal and professional excellence, to advance the values of the Society, and to serve its lifelong members.” The chapter honoree designation is offered to those who have furthered the ideals of the society through outstanding business and managerial leadership.

The Georgia Southern University chapter was formed in 1982 under the leadership of accounting professor Horace Harrell and former dean Ori 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 Stweat, Jr. Chapter President Leslie Fletcher presented the 2010-11 BGS scholarship to Rahim N. Mawji.
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 Dahlkold, 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 mbare@georgiasouthern.edu.

Have a great summer!◆

MBA Program Selection: An Exploratory Study

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 warehousing 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.”◆

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 Buy and competitive pricing among AACSB programs by GetEducated.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.◆

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 Keadle 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-prominent keynote speakers:

- Former FBI Special Agent Joe Dooley, now with KPMG, who helped catch con man Martin Frankel,
- Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Nelan, 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.◆

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: mbare@georgiasouthern.edu, Website: http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/grad.htm.
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 the supply chain business at Best Buy and Wal-Mart.

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.

Joycelyn Dorsey

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.

Kyle Hensel

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.
COBA
Mary R. Abercrombie
Trip Addison*
Paula L. Alexander
William Ampounsi*
Mark H. Anderson
Stewart M. Applbaum
Atlanta Chapter of the CPCU Society
Megan Dooley
Atlanta Claims Association, Kerri Crosby
Atlanta Maritime Association, Inc., Chris Lawrence
Automation Systems & Controls, Inc., Robin Rich
BB&T, John W. Lane
Sahar Bahmani
Stephen Barber*
Perry C. Barnett*
Rick Barr*
Richard A. Bean*
Paul T. Bennett*
Richard A. Bean*
Rick Barr*
Bryan R. Burke*
Tom Clark
Leonard H. Blount
Blount Property Group, LLC,
Leonard H. Blount
William H. Bolen
Thomas Bond, Jr.*
William J. Boswick*
Esther Bowman*
Richard J. Bowman*
Richard Jorris Bowman*
Zandra Brasington
Brodie International, Tom Clark
Gregory J. Brock*
Carlos Brown, Jr.
John H. Brown
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.*
Adam S. Bryant*
Pedro A. Bryant
Bryan R. Burke*
M. Albert Burke*
Michael Calhoun*
Don E. Cafaway*
Jennifer Campbell*
Johnny L. Carter*
Rosemary Carter*
Brenda Carter
Harrison S. Carter
Thomas Case*
Julie Castiglia
Richard J. Chambers*
Donald W. Crisban*
Alaine M. Claxton

David T. Clayton*
Wesley Cobb*
Doug Collins III*
Lisa Conlin-Bacon*
Kerry H. Cotter III*
Chatham Foundation,
William Sprague III
Claude Howard Lumber Company, Inc.,
C. Arthur Howard
Cleve White Nissan, Inc.,
Cleve White, Jr.
Coca-Cola United,
Dennis Key
Collins Insurance Specialists, Inc.,
Paul Collins
C.P.C.U. Harry J. Loman Foundation,
Megan Dooley
William D. Craig IV

Demody Properties Foundation,
Marc Markewell
D. Morgan Derst*
John Franklin Dismuke*
Joseph Doyle
Drafft & Tucker, LLP,
Jim Creamer
Justin L. Dunn*
Lon Dunden*
Jimmie L. Earle
Nancy Eford
ExxonMobil Foundation
Farmers & Merchants Bank, Statesboro,
C. Ricky Nessmith
First Command Financial Services,
Bill Stropp
Olivia S. Flanagan*
Leslie B. Fletcher

Lynda S. Hamilton
Hancock & Askew LLP,
J. Harry Haslam, Jr.
Mark D. Hanna*
Horace W. Harrell, Jr.*
Larry F. Harrison*
Jackie W. Hartley*
Mary F. Hazeldine*
William D. Head*
Tracyann Henry
Heritage Capital Group, Inc.,
C. Don Wiggins
Nancy Herring
Senator Jack Hill
Scott Hilsen
J. Earl Hilson
Sarah Y. Hines
Jeremy R. Hinton*
Holland, Henry & Bromley, LLP,
Jack Richard Henry Jr.
Lisa Holtz-Schneider
The Home Depot PAC
James M. Hood*
Howard Lumber & Hardware Co.,
Bill C. Howard
Howard Moore McDuffie, P.C.,
Samuel McDuffie*
Donald D. Howard
Lee F. Howard, Jr.*
IKON Office Solutions, Inc.,
Anna Beecher
Oriegen James, Jr.**
Matthew H. Janofsky*
Sheila P. Jenkins
John Jennings
Michael K. Johnson
Lindsey D. Johnson, Jr.*
Daniel C. Johnston*
Jones & Boyd Insurance Agency,
Edwin O. Boyd
Thomas W. Jones
W. Kelly Jones
Kelly Kahley
Jennifer (Ginger) Karth
L. McGrath Keen, Jr.
Russell T. Keen*
Richard B. Kearney
William C. Kirby*
Sean Micheal Knox*
John F. Kohn*
Brian Kramschuster*
Jonathan Lafave
H. Douglas Lambert*
Senator Jack Hill
Scott Hilsen
Nancy Herring
Heritage Capital Group, Inc.,
Tracyann Henry

President Keel joins
Eagle Executive Society

Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel
proudly displays his Eagle Executive Society Membership Certificate presented
by Dean Ron Shiffler.

Barbara Focht
Sara Fountain*
Peter L. Fraley*
H. Lehman Franklin, Attorney at Law
Robert L. Franklin
Betsy T. Freeman
Jenny L. Gentry*
Georgia Ports Authority,
Doug Marchand
Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.,
Lynda B. Williamson*
Godfrey A. Gibson
John M. Giddens III
Cynthia Glover,
Carl Gooding*
Nancy R. Goski
Maria Graham
Linda G. Griffin*
William L. Griggs*
Sara Jeanette Grimes*
Shannon Grindler
Habit Arogetti & Wynne, LLP,
Alex Knight

Brian M. Creamer
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Spring 2010
Eagle Executive
Page 8
Contributors and Supporters

Scholarship funds during 2009 are listed below. Care has been taken in the preparation of this list to assure complete and accurate recording; however, if omissions or errors have occurred, we express our sincere regret and request that you bring such errors to our attention.

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*Eagle Executive Society Members

Top 10 Reasons for Making a Contribution to COBA

#1 Do Interesting Things, Meet New People, and Feel Really Good!

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!

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J. Tom Coe*
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#5 National rankings

#6 A sense of “giving back”

#7 A tax deduction!

#8 Pride in your alma mater

#9 Ability to designate funds

#10 Reduced funding from State

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Eagle Executive Society Members

Spring 2010 Eagle Executive
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 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 on-line 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 Staff Award for Excellence
Shawne Zuber
Shawne Zuber earned a BS in computer science from Georgia Southern in 2001 and has held progressively more 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 “maintenance” 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 Tomlinson & Bond Families Staff Award for Excellence
Rashonda Bostic
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 COBA Student Services Center and her community.

In addition to her responsibilities as an academic advisor, Rashonda regularly attends Southern’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 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 coming to 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 collegiality. 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 lead 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 Committees, has served on COBA’s and CIT’s Graduate Curriculum Committees, and CIT’s Governance and Development Committees. He is a member of the Georgia Information and DSS Conference and journal reviewer.

The 2010 Awards

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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 serves 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. Externally, Camille is presently serving as SAIS 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 Baptists 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 a dissertation on 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 case course in the 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 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 College 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 award recognizes significant contribution to the college’s success. John O’Malley has quietly amassed an impressive list of clients that students in his upper level web technologies classes have consulted with to develop websites, making the college more visible in the local community. All work is done professionally and at no cost to the client. Local clients include Bulloch Recreational Department Soccer, St. Matthew’s Catholic Church, Statesboro Mission Outreach Ministries, Daily Grind, Eagle Motorsports, Novel Imaging and Jefferson County Library.

The M. Albert Burke Faculty Award
Joseph S. Ruhlrand

Dr. Joe Ruhlrand joined the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis in 2006 and made an immediate impact on the risk management and insurance (RMI) program and students. He has chaired the RMI 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 Jane White Marketing Scholar Award
Luther Denton

Dr. Luther “Trey” Denton has been an ambassador for the college and university since joining the faculty in 1992. He consistently places in the top three in the department with respect to teaching evaluations and has a record of research and publication—remarkable considering the demands placed on his time. Trey’s service to the profession, the department, the university, and the community at large is without equal. He has helped develop goals, strategy, and mission for the university by serving on the University Strategic Planning Council for many years. Trey has been instrumental in leading the university in the development and implementation of assessment processes. And, he is the only person in the history of the university to serve as chair in two presidential searches—two very successful presidential searches!

The Ron and Barbara Shiffler Instructor Award
Ann Henderson

During the last five years, Ann Henderson has taught principles of accounting, survey of accounting, and accounting for managers. Each year, she received excellent evaluations from her students for her patience in helping them understand the ins and outs of accounting. Ann brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her classes as a certified public accountant who has worked for KPMG, one of the Big 4 accounting firms. In the community, Ann has served on the Bulloch County Planning Committee and is active in several other civic organizations.

This year, the Eagle Executive Society began recognizing faculty who have demonstrated a level of student-centered engagement “beyond the call of duty.” Recipients create life-changing opportunities for students, and/or intervene through advising and other student development activities in a manner that significantly impacts the life or career potential of students.

In this inaugural 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. Berezc, 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.

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 for Lego Robots competition.

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.

Rodney W. Thomas, Integrating Industry Knowledge into the Classroom

In a short time, Rod has developed a strong reputation with logistics students for being knowledgeable, excellent at integrating industry knowledge and experience in the classroom, patient, and empathetic. He receives high marks from his students in all areas of evaluation.

Honors Day

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

Accountancy

Paul LaGrone Scholarship: Paul Kidd
Ryan A. Lewis
Karley L. Weiner

The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award: Jessica L. Murray

Computer Science

Computer Science Student of the Year Award: Clinton Bush

Upsilon Pi Epsilon: Christian Andrews
Daniel Davis
Christine Risberg

Economics Development

The Wall Street Journal Award: Antuan Wilson

Award for Excellence in Achievement: Economics of the Free Market: Britanny Robinson

SED Award for Academic Distinction: Dana Velasquez

Omicron Delta Epsilon: Adam Dozier
Stephen Mims
Allison Paine
Patrick Sullivan
Derick Tuttle
Dana Velasquez
Jason Wilmot
Aaron Wilson

Finance & Quantitative Analysis

ACA Financial Guaranty Corporation: Tyler Dillon
Mallory Mitchell

Atlanta Charter Property Casualty Underwriters: Rahim Mawji
Paul Kidd: Candace Fullmore

Information Systems

Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr. Information Systems Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: David Styer

Albert J. Roessel Information Systems Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: Christina Larson

Tailored Business Systems Information Systems Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: Andrew Weber

Buddy Lichte Information Systems Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: Kurt Barnes

Richard A. Mordecai Award, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: Daniel P. Vinson

Women in Business Technology Scholarship: Oluwaseco Ogunjemilusi
Dr. Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr. Scholarship: Linda Carwell

Pickett/Garvin Scholarship: Jesse T. Floyd

Matthew Janovsky Scholarship: Dennis J. Luong

Alpha Iota Mu: Jeremy W. Eason
William Finney
Jesse Floyd
James Hartridge

Keisha N. King
Christina Larson
Dennis Luong
Michael Mailey
April McKay
Oluwaseco Ogunjemilusi
Aaron D. Rosenbaum
Andrew Weber
Charles C. Whiten

Information Technology

Information Technology Award for Excellence, Outstanding Graduate in Information Systems: Daniel Scott Shaver

Information Technology Award for Excellence, Academic Achievement Award: Daniel Scott Shaver

Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Human Resource Management Award: Morgan Cannon

Top Management Student Award: Susan Oglesby

Outstanding Marketing Student Award: Jessica Geiger

Sack Company Marketing Service Award: Andrew Sears

Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: Katelyn Dearing
Andrew Sears

Georgia Retail Association Scholarship in Marketing: Katherine Crider
Jennifer Falk

Gray’s College Bookstore Book Scholarship: Andrew Sears

Keisha N. King
Christina Larson
Dennis Luong
Michael Mailey
April McKay
Oluwaseco Ogunjemilusi
Aaron D. Rosenbaum
Andrew Weber
Charles C. Whiten

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Georgia Retail Association Scholarship in Marketing: Katherine Crider
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Gray’s College Bookstore Book Scholarship: Andrew Sears

First Southern Top Student in Sales Award: Donaven Lowe
Logistics & Intermodal Transportation Award: Skylar Bratcher
Jane White Memorial Marketing Scholarship: Kyle J. Randall

Chavette 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
Mu Kappa Tau Marketing National Honor Society: Travis Anderson
Karrie Clater
Katelyn Dearing
Jessica Geiger
Brittany Lovingood
Megan Moreau
Chelsea Price
Alisa S. Rand
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Kyle Randall
Mark Reith
Andrew Sears
The Forensic Accounting Board

Philip M. Robertson, special agent, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Office of Inspector General presented the School of Accountancy’s 7th Annual Forensic Accounting Lecture in February. Robertson entertained and informed the audience of more than six hundred members of the Eastern Regional Office of the FDIC.

Robertson, a Tennessee native, received a BS in business administration from the University of Tennessee, and served as a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service from 1971 until 1991, including five years service in the vice-presidential protective division. Following secret service retirement, he was appointed special agent, office of inspector general, Resolution Trust Corporation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana office of the FDIC, beginning a new chapter in his investigative career. Special Agent Robertson has investigated a large number of complicated bank failures, having spent five years on the New England Bank Fraud Task Force, Boston, MA, and a member of the Justice Department’s Mortgage Task Force.

Robertson entertained and informed the audience of more than six hundred students, faculty, and Forensic Accounting Advisory Board members with a $515 million securitization fraud in a small West Virginia community bank. His presentation, titled “Sex, Lies, and Securitization: Where Did I Put that Darn $515,000,000?” involved it all, including sex, lies, commen, thieves, and eventually, discovery of bank securitization records buried in boxes on the CEO’s property!

The Forensic Accounting Lecture Series is an initiative to enhance the forensic accounting program. Forensic accounting, currently one of the hottest career paths within the profession, integrates accounting, auditing, and investigative skills. In the program, undergraduate students of any major can take five courses and receive a Fraud examination minor. The 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 as a certified fraud examiner. 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.

Forensic Accounting Lecture

Philip M. Robertson

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 Noonmichs Lane Assembly Hall, in April. Dean Ron Shiffler welcomed guests and introduced special guest, Dr. Harry S. Carter, provost and professor of management and communication, posthumously honor benefactor Freeman, a nearby Claxton native, and introduce keynote speaker Jimmy Childre, Jr.

Childre is president and chief executive officer of Childre Ford and Mercury, Sandersville, 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, a global executive MBA, health sector management 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, past 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: Testing as a Certified Fraud Examiner” emphasized 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 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 entrepreneurs. 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.

The Forensic Accounting Board

Wes Sherrill, Phil Robertson, and (sitting, l-r) Bill Donaldson, Scott Hilsen, and Laurie Dyke.

The newest board members are (standing, l-r) Joe Doyle, Wes Sherrill, 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 the Inspector General, Scott Hilsen, Alston & Bird, LLP; Wes Sherrill, 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, Hillegass & 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.


William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture

Dr. Pittaway

Professor Emeritus Harry Carter

Jimmy Childre

Dean Shiffler
Accounting

James Childre, Jr. (1976), Sandersville, president of Childre Ford-Mercury, Inc., was the featured speaker at this year’s William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture Series (see related story on page 13). His dealership has won many awards including the Chairman’s Award from Ford for being ranked in the top 2 percent of Ford dealerships nationally in customer satisfaction. Email: jchildre@msn.com.

Paula Hunter Freeman (1989), Statesboro, is the controller and CPA for Hodges Management Co. She is married to Harry S. Freeman.

Tracy Tipton Watanabe (1992), Cypress, TX, is the controller for Marubini-Itochu Tubular Americas, Inc., in Houston, TX. Email: tracy_watanabe@yahoo.com.

Laura Lea Griffin (2004; MAcc 2004), Atlanta, is a CPA with Porter Keedle Moore, Atlanta. Email: lgriffin@pkm.com.

Jay C. Richardson (1998), Cumming, is a network administrator for WSAV TV, Savannah. Email: dustindurden@pineland.net.

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.

Dustin Durden (2001; MBA 2005), Cobbtown, is the customer service manager for the Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Metter. His wife is Sherrie. Email: dustindurden@pineland.net.

Matthew Parker Scott (2001), Jacksonville, FL, a commercial finance analyst for CSX Transportation, recently married Shannon F. Farling, a University of North Florida and Stetson University alumna.

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 Kerri Campbell.

Dr. Michael Dellwing (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: dellwing@m-kassel.de.

Russell Taubee (2004), Statesboro, a commercial insurance producer for Lee, Hill, and Johnston Insurors, is engaged to Emilie Beth Wilson, a 2007 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: rtaubee@alumni.georgiasouthern.edu.

Stephen W. Bruce (2006), Savannah, a real estate specialist with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, recently married Sarah Rose Brown, a Georgia Southern child and family development graduate.

Jonathan N. Edwards (2007), formerly in Tifton, is a residential appraiser for A-1 Appraisals & Associates. He is also very active in athletic programs and officiates high school football games. Email: jonathan.edwards30@gmail.com.

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 L. Fields (2005), Swainsboro, is an administrative specialist for East Georgia College. Email: jennifer.fields@gmail.com.

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

William S. “Bill” Barrett, Jr. (1990), Savannah, is a master firefighter with the Savannah Fire Dept. Email: sfengco5@gmail.com.

Wiley J. Christain (2008), Springfield, is the network administrator for WSAV TV, Savannah. Email: wchristian@wsaw.com.

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

Jenni M. Salerno (2008), Marietta, is an accounts receivable clerk for Pepsi Beverages Company, Winston Salem, NC. She is married to Evan N. Patrick, a 2009 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: evan.n.patrick@gmail.com.

Management

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

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

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

Suzanne Marie Spisers (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. Blankumsew (2006), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Quitman, where he is the co-owner of Blankumsew, 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: dlbillard@macan.k12.ga.us.
Adam P. King (2006), Fitzgerald, is a sales rep with Elair Industries. Email: akingle2@email.georgiasouthern.edu.

Lauren K. Register (2008), formerly in Richmond Hill, is now in Guyton, where she is a customer service rep with The Colony Bank, Savannah. She recently married Asher S. Denmark, a 2006 Georgia Southern construction management graduate.

Glenn W. Cooper, III (2009), formerly in Cumming, is now in Jacksonville, FL, where he is an operations analyst for Black Diamond Performance Reporting. He is married to Elizabeth Ann Williams, a 2008 Georgia Southern community health grad. Email: glencooper3@gmail.com.

Joseph E. Floyd (2010), Brunswick, is the operations supervisor for Southland Waste Systems. Email: jfloyd79@live.com.

Marketing

Kristen Germeno Roberts (1995), Roswell, is a business process specialist for Coca-Cola Enterprises. She is married to Marc Roberts. Email: kristen_germeno@yahoo.com.

Christy Threadgill Pirckus (1999), Palmetto, is married to Trevor Pirckus and is a stay-at-home mom with four children. Email: christy_gspu@yahoo.com.

Melissa B. Banks (2000), Savannah, has been appointed acting director of human resources for Savannah Technical College. Email: twinkleo31@yahoo.com.

James K. Aultman (2002), Tifton, is a farmer in the Tifton area.

James R. Fleullan (2002), Warner Robins, is now a merchandising specialist for the Bass Pro Shops, Macon. Email: jrfluellen@hotmail.com.

Stephen T. Stanley (2002), formerly in Rincon, is now in Garden City, where he is the project manager for Welsh Commercial and Residential Repairs. He is also very active in fund raising for Shriners Hospitals. Email: steamer_77@yahoo.com.

Andrea Lynn Efird (2003), Decatur, is now a history and government teacher at Druid Hills High School, Atlanta. On May 30, 2009, she married Russ Avery, a marketing grad from UGA. Email: andreeavery@gmail.com.

Jesse Goldstone (2003), Lawrenceville, is an account manager with Coca-Cola Enterprises. He is married to Melissa Schulze. Email: jessegoldstone@yahoo.com.

Alison N. McCormick (2004), formerly in Fort Smith, AR, is now in Watkinsville. Her husband is Jason, and she is a homemaker. Email: alisonhmccormick@hotmail.com.

Carrie Leigh Domazalski (2005), Northhampton, MA, is currently in law school. Email: carrie_domazalski@yahoo.com.

Sommer L. Sampson (2005), formerly in Thomasville, is now in Atlanta, where she is the security coordinator for JAS Forwarding (USA). She was promoted to TSA IACSC. Email: sampsonj@jasusa.com.

Laura J. Ginn (2006), St. Simons Island, is a marketing rep with Better Trades; Atlanta. She has traveled to 48 states and 5 foreign countries educating individuals through stock market workshops. Email: laura.ginn@yahoo.com.

Amada Lovvorn Woods (2006), Pooler, is a second grade teacher at West Chatham Elementary School. She is currently enrolled in the EdS program at Georgia Southern after getting her masters degree in education from Armstrong Atlantic State. She is married to Brandon Woods, a 2005 Georgia Southern Ind. Mgt. graduate.

Sydney Elizabeth Dean (2007), formerly in Marietta, is now in Estonian, where she is the director of sales for The Lodge on Lake Oconee. Email: sydean10@gmail.com.

Christopher J. Finnegang (2007), formerly in Richmond Hill, is now in Ellabell, where he is a G&M fishing/ marine for Bass Pro Shops, Savannah. He is engaged to Katelyn Warren, a 2008 Georgia Southern early childhood graduate. A July 17, 2010, wedding is planned. Email: cjfinnegan@basspro.com.

Debra E. Glover (2007), Atlanta, is a sales rep for the Liberty Mutual Group, Marietta. She is engaged to Andrew C. Mize, a Georgia Southern alumni and a 2007 graduate of Augusta State. A June 12, 2010, wedding, is planned.

Corey Grant (2008), Smyrna, is an executive management trainee for Genuine Parts Company/NAPA Auto Parts, Atlanta. Email: formull8r@gmail.com.

Jenna Maria Bivone (2009), Marietta, is a marketing assistant for the Dominican Orthopedic Clinic, Atlanta. Email: bivones@yahoo.com.

Douglas Axel Carlson (2008), Columbus, OH, is the charitable funds auditor for the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. His wife is Corine. Email: daxelc@gmail.com.

John M. Cusimano (2008), formerly in Midway, is now in Pooler, where he is a staff accountant and CPA with Hancock, Askew & Company, Savannah. Email: jmcsimano@gmail.com.

Jason Scott Parash (2009), Metter, a credit analyst with FMB, Statesboro, recently married Jessica Marie McCullough, a 2007 Georgia Southern graduate in nursing.

MBA

John F. Kohn (1993), Statesboro, owner of Popeye’s Fried Chicken on Fair Road, recently received the coveted 2009 Bronze Plate at the company’s International Franchise Conference for being one of the very best Popeye’s restaurants. John also teaches marketing in COBA.

Rebecca L. Rowan (2000), Savannah, a finance manager for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp, recently married Robert R. Galloway, a UGA and South Texas College of Law alumus.

John Thomas Creidle (2001; BS Pay 1999), Phenix City, AL, is now a branch manager for the TIC Federal Credit Union, Columbus. He is married to Shannon Adams. Email: thomasc@tfccu.com.

Jerdie E. Thompson (2006), formerly in Swansboro, is now in Savannah, where he is the configuration engineer for Convergys. His wife is Renee. Email: jerdie@yaho.com.

W. Mike Brown (2007), Pooler, is the senior manager marketing research person for Gulfstream Aerospace. He is married to Kelly Sneed. Email: mike.brown@gulfstream.com.

Joseph M. Tillman (2008), formerly in Swansboro, is now in Lansing, MI, where he is a consultant and senior researcher for Supply Chain Visions. Email: tillman.joseph@yahoo.com.

Pacer Blevins (2009), Ringgold, is employed by a medical device manufacturer in northwest Georgia and plans to sit for the CPA exam in 2010. His wife is Janet. Email: ppblevins@hotmail.com.

Nissa Rae Curtis (2009), Atlanta, is the account manager for the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. She is married to Murray Curtis. Email: nissa@prumc.org.

In Memoriam


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, and 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 Southeastern 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.

Origen J. James, Jr.

It was under Dean James’s leadership that COBA 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 philanthropist-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 Dissciple 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, Winbrell & 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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Last spring: 627
Growth: 20