Price Selected Fulbright Scholar

The U. S. Department of State and J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board recently announced Barbara A. Price, professor of quantitative analysis in the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture in the Erasmus MBA and undergraduate programs, The University of Debrecen, Hungary, in Spring 2011. She will be joining the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at The University of Debrecen to extend the international content of COBA’s programs for graduate and undergraduate business education.

The Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. The program is administered by the Institute of International Education and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, State Department, which receives an annual appropriation from the U.S. Congress. Dr. Price is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Scholar Program this year.

Barbara Price (front row, 2nd from right) with Fulbright-Hays team members at the University of Debrecen, founded in 1538, Hungary.

Battipaglia Visits COBA

Joe Battipaglia, financial market strategist for Stifel Nicolaus and chief investment officer at Washington Crossing Advisors, spoke at Georgia Southern in October. Mr. Battipaglia, former chair of investment policy at Wall Street’s Ryan, Beck & Company, has more than 30 years of financial experience, including Wall Street’s Gruntal & Company and Enkiss & Company, along with Exxon Corporation. He is a former trustee of the Securities Industry Institute, the Security Industry Association’s premier leadership and management education program.

Mr. Battipaglia is featured frequently on national television, particularly CNBC and Fox News. He is interviewed regularly by The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and business publications in which his market views are often quoted.

In his presentation, Battipaglia described the global economic environment today as an “immense credit problem,” with “global debt at $210 trillion, it is 32 percent of global GDP of $65 trillion,” inferring the sovereign debt crisis has a “stranglehold” on global economic growth. In the U.S., where the debt to GDP ratio was 83 percent in FY 2009 and 94 percent for FY 2010, the economic challenge is employment, as labor and capital mobility of U.S. technology and business models create intense competition from developing nations. China’s manufacturing sector was cited as an example of that imbalance, contributing to a destabilized global currency regime.

Battipaglia graduated Phi Beta Kappa in economics from Boston College and earned his MBA at the Wharton Graduate School of Business, University of Pennsylvania.

New Provost

Georgia Southern University President, Dr. Brooks Keel, recently announced Dr. William (Ted) Moore will join Georgia Southern as provost and vice president for academic affairs on April 1, 2011. Dr. Moore is currently vice president for finance and planning and chief financial officer at the University of South Carolina, where he holds the David and Esther Berlinberg Distinguished Professorship in the Darla Moore School of Business. He is responsible for the areas of Business Affairs, Facilities, Law Enforcement & Safety, Budget Office, Bursar and Controller, Information Technology, and Community and Government Relations. At the state level, he leads the strategic planning for the University of South Carolina System, including oversight of Focus Carolina, a system-wide planning initiative.

Dr. Moore earned his Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, better known as Virginia Tech, in 1982 and maintains an active research agenda in the areas of capital investment analysis, asset pricing, risk measurement, and financial market microstructure. He served as executive editor of the Journal of Financial Research from 2000 to 2005 and has been awarded a number of teaching, research, and professor awards at the University of South Carolina, including the University’s most prestigious teaching award and its award for outstanding research. During his 24-year career at USC, Dr. Moore has served as interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, vice president for planning, vice provost for academic affairs, and associate provost for budget and operations.

Dr. Moore served in the United States Army from 1968-1977 and was awarded the Purple Heart while serving as an infantryman in Vietnam. He is married to Linda T. Moore, who has enjoyed a career as an attorney specializing in health care law.

The Princeton Review has named COBA one of the Best Business Schools for the fifth year! 

Ted Moore
A Message from Dean Shiffler

In public, I am often asked how things are going in the College of Business Administration. In doing so, most people are politely engaging me in conversation and giving me a 30- second opportunity to play cheerleader for the college.

Since I may not have an opportunity to meet you in person, I thought I would share with you what I tell folks about COBA and Georgia Southern.

Depending on the circumstances and with whom I am speaking, I choose one of the following three or four main themes that I have been delivering for years.

First are our premier programs. Without question, we have become a national leader in the field of forensic accounting. While not ignoring our responsibility to develop certified public and management accountants, we offer today’s undergraduate and graduate accounting students a forensic accounting track consisting of five courses. We have one of the deepest—if not the deepest—programs in the U.S. in terms of curriculum.

We started the Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business to make better connections between the university and practitioners. The Center runs an annual fraud conference, which is now in its fifth year and competes with one other conference as the “major” forensic accounting conference in the country.

Another premier program is our logistics program. At the undergraduate level, we continue to support the intermodal transportation sector with high quality graduates who have a strong work ethic. We are a preferred campus for recruitment by many well- known companies. At the graduate level, we launched our first Ph.D. program in logistics and supply chain management. This program will raise our visibility nationally in research and begin to supply academe with newly minted professors who will teach in universities across the state and the country. I have already heard from two dean colleagues who said they would hire our doctoral graduates right now, if we had any!

Second, I talk about our success in online graduate education. The Georgia WebMBA® program celebrated its tenth anniversary this fall and is bigger, better, and stronger than ever. We have more than 300 students currently in the program and have added a sixth school to the original consortium to help us meet demand. We regularly win awards for quality and affordability and continue to attract a higher quality business professional into the program. The average number of years of work experience is 10+ and the average age of our students is in the low- to mid-30s. We sport an 86 percent graduation rate, too. Outstanding!

Our success with the WebMBA® program led us to move the entire Master of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE) degree program online. We are now one of the best—if not the best—online masters degree program in economics. Enrollments continue to grow and the quality of applicants is superb. The average GMAT score is 600. Hopefully, we will launch online versions of the Masters in Accountancy degree and the Executive MBA degree next fall. We expect both programs to benefit from lessons learned in the WebMBA® and MSAE programs.

Third, we have several programs on the cusp of breaking out. The entrepreneurship program is making tremendous strides toward becoming an interdisciplinary effort on campus and is attracting interest in the community as well. It will not be long before you will be reading about its successes on these pages.

Our sales program recently received certification from the Professional Society of Sales & Marketing Trainers, and our retailing program completed a partnership agreement, only the second in the nation, with Toys “R” Us to be its preferred educational partner in the Southeast.

The Information Systems Department is hitching its wagon to an enterprise resource planning application known as SAP. We are one of only two SAP University Alliance schools in the Southeast that offer an intensive two-week program that enables students to graduate as certified SAP professionals.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the growth of our curricular offerings. The Center for Excellence in Financial Services organizes an annual banking symposium, which has grown in scope and visibility.

As you can see, I have so much to talk about I often do not know where to begin. Reading about all these great programs and accomplishments should make you proud to be an Eagle! Please let us hear from you and please support the Eagle Executive Society, our annual COBA giving program.

Ronald E. Shiffler, Dean
Lewis M. Stewart, Alumni Editor
**Department News**

**Finance & Quantitative Analysis**

In November, Ednilson Bernardes, represented the U.S. in the International Purchasing Research (IPS) meeting held in the Politecnico Di Milano, Italy. Formed in 2008, the IPS team scholars, from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, investigate supply management strategies, capabilities, and performance around the globe. Also, Ed, along with co-authors from George Mason University and Technion Israel Institute of Technology, will present “New Product Development and Supply Network for Sustainable Transportation” at the Decision Sciences Institute session on Entrepreneurship and Operations Strategy.

**Information Systems**

IS faculty and students attended a North Carolina/ South Carolina Chapter ASUG: America’s SAP Users’ Group meeting in December at BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC, in Greer, SC. The meeting was sponsored by Diagonal Consulting, Rimini Street, Optimal Solutions, Assima Inc., and Extrinsic LLC.

**Management, Marketing, & Logistics**

Steve Rutner, director, PhD Program in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation, graduated from the United States Army War College in conjunction with his 2008-2010 deployment in the Iraq war. He received a master of strategic studies degree. The prestigious college accepts fewer than one percent of Army officers and the graduation rate is typically around 60 percent.

Tim Jahneke, CEO of Elkay Manufacturing, spoke at COBA’s Society of Human Resource Management meeting about unique career opportunities for human resource majors. His presentation focused on how human resources provides an opportunity to observe and understand a business and a foundation to move up the corporate ladder. He offered tips on how students pursuing a degree in human resources can distinguish themselves in the tough job market and gain experience through internships. Mr. Jahneke concluded, “Without human resource training or experience, it would have been difficult to achieve and execute the CEO position.”

**School of Accountancy**

Dwight Sneathey, associate professor, is one of 24 CPAs in the state to be accepted in the Georgia Society of CPAs Leadership Academy, a leadership/management training program held bi-annually.

The Zeta Delta Chapter, Georgia Southern University, was recognized as a host chapter for approximately 275 schools and chapters of Beta Alpha Psi internationally at its national meeting in San Jose, CA, in August. More than 1,000 students and faculty from around the world attended the meetings which provided training and seminars on chapter organization, professional development, and career services.

Georgia Southern alumnus Don Daniels, vice president-controller, JetBlue Airways, secured the air travel to San Jose. Don met students in the concourse at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, gave them a behind-the-scenes tour, including the tower, and took them to dinner during their layover.

Cheryl Metrejean, associate professor, and Eddie Metrejean’s, assistant professor, son, Steven, is a member of the American Boychoir, a prestigious national choir of approximately 40 boys, grades 4 through 8, who attend the American Boychoir School in Princeton, NJ. They tour the U.S. and world singing beautiful music and recently came to Statesboro to present a fabulous concert at the First United Methodist Church.

**School of Economic Development**

Dr. William A. Amponsah, assistant professor, was invited to participate in preparing the second European Report on Development, launched by the European Union, focused on economic growth in Africa. He also assisted in drafting the first report launched for the European Development Days in Stockholm, Sweden in October 2009.

Mike Callaghan (Econ, 2008 and MS, Financial Economics, Illinois State) co-authored an article, “The Effect of the Kyoto Protocol on Carbon Dioxide Emissions,” in the Journal of Economics and Finance with former professor Risa Kumazawa. Mike is now employed with Fidelity Bank as a mortgage analyst, and Risa is a professor of economics and quantitative sciences at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

Donna Fisher, associate professor, Simon Charles, assistant professor in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Robert Shanafelt, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, and 10 students embarked on a three-week “study abroad” trip to Botswana, Africa, this past summer. They took a 15-hour direct flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg, South Africa, then traveled over land to Gaborone, Botswana’s capital, to the University of Botswana.

Dr. Fisher described the adventure, “I taught a micro-finance course, exploring product line expansion, funding opportunities, and export potentials. Dr. Charles taught a course on environmental sustainability. We all participated in a number of cultural events including a safari, World Cup game, and visit to a traditional Botswanan village.”

Students included on the trip were Sharee Ashford, Patti Jo Brown, Holly Delp, Jackson Head, Brit Lanier, Alyssa Oravec, Maegan Rainwater, Samantha Smith, Silvia Tamminen, and Jordan Tompkins. Trip sponsors included the Georgia Southern Center for International Studies, Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, and School of Economic Development.

**Welcome Back Students Day Scenes**

**Homecoming Professors for a Day**

This year marked the fourth annual COBA alumni Professor for a Day event at Homecoming. Alumni were invited to come back to campus and spend Friday in class as guest professors to share their real world experiences, along with insights into their own various areas of expertise. The guest professors stressed the importance of mastering the content provided by regular professors. Visiting professors were honored with an appreciation luncheon on campus. A special thanks to those who participated, including:

Jessica Hood, a project manager for the Liberty County Development Authority, responsible for recruiting industry, organizing and conducting visits, and providing assistance to existing industry, graduated from Georgia Southern in 2007 with a degree in economics and a minor in regional economic development. Jessica is also a member of the Georgia Economic Developers Association;

Lauren Medina, employed with Family Connection-Communities in Schools of America as a grants manager, graduated from Georgia Southern in 2007 with degrees in economics and Spanish language and literature, then went on to The University of Georgia for a masters degree in public policy analysis and non-profit management.

J. Dan Speight, Jr., vice chair and chief financial and operating officer of State Bank and Trust Company, Macon and Atlanta, which has recently grown to $2.7 billion in assets with 22 offices and 460 employees across middle Georgia. Dan earned a BBA in management, cum laude, from Georgia Southern in 1979 and a law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in 1982. He began his professional career in private law practice as a member of the State Bar of Georgia. He entered banking in the mid-’80’s, and, during his career, has served as president, Community Bankers Association of Georgia; director, Georgia Bankers Association; chair, Georgia Bankers Association Bankers Committee; and director, Independent Community Bankers Association of America.

**Stapleton Authors Text**

Professor Emeritus Rick Stapleton (MM&L) has published a textbook, Business Voyages. The book’s tagline, “Set sail for a better world,” illustrates its premise to provide a must-read chronicle for those seeking to recover from the economic chaos gripping the U.S. and the world.

Thanks to William Amponsah, Rachael Barrett, Ednilson Bernardes, Janice Brown, Mikelle Calhoun, Charlie Cox, Jackie Eastman, Godfrey Gibson, Jan Grimes, Dena Hale, Mark Hanna, Chuck Harter, Melissa Holland, Feruzan Irani, Amanda King, Lyndel King, Vicki King, Jamie Lane, Jill Lockwood, Mike McDonald, Brit McKay, Deanna Piche, Barbara Price, Sarah Rene, Ed Sibuld, Carol Waller, Karen Wells, Jay West, Linda Wilke, Stephanie Williams, Jerry Wilson, and Bill Yang for all of their help serving popcorn and soft drinks.
2010 Scholarship Recipients

Dixie Crystals
Joshua S. Pollak

Robert Cox
Keylene Burgess
Samantha Leptonka

Paul LaGrone
Ryan Lewis
Karley Weiner

White
Kyle Randall

Priddy-Price
Madeline Bunn

Cummings
Mikal Lewis

Beta Gamma Sigma
Rahim N. Massji and Atlanta CPCU

Knotts
Linda Carwell

Coe
Christine Van Cara

GATE Scholars
GATE Scholars: Jeremy Myers, Jennifer Gay, Jonathan Branch, Dr. Cheryl Metrejean, Lindsay Page, Emily Scott, and Matt Steinberg

Anderson
Andrew Southerland

Atlanta CPCU
Danielle Youngs, Mikal Lewis, and Keylene Burgess

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

SE Chapter of the GA Society of CPAs Scholars: Tyler Youmana, Wesley Cone, Trey Bourgamy, Chapter President Abbie Gail Parham, Kristen Birchett, and Pamela Herrington

Paul Kidd
Candace Fullmore

Recipients not Pictured:
ACA: Tyler Dillon and Mallory Mitchell
Charities: JoAnna Maria Kyser and Jessica L. Perdue
Georgia Retail Association: Katherine Crider and Jennifer Falk
Giacomo: Katelyn Dearing and Andrew Kevan Sears
Gray’s College Bookstore: Andrew Sears
Janofsky: Dennis J. Luong
Kidd: Candace Fullmore
Knotts: Linda Carwell
Morris: Donald B. Muir
Peacock: Elena J. Bencini
Pickett/Garvin Scholarship: Jesse T. Floyd
SHRM: Danae Flatford and Alyssa Oravec
Women in Business Technology: Oluwasem Ogunjimilusi

If you would like to support COBA’s scholarship programs, please contact
Dean Ron Shiffler, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration,
P. O. Box 8002, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002, phone (912) 478-COBA.
Tracy Ham Inducted into CFL Hall of Fame

Tracy Ham was inducted into the Canadian Football League Hall of Fame in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, this past summer. He threw for 40,534 yards, ran for another 8,043 yards, and scored 31 touchdowns during his career with the Edmonton Eskimos, Toronto Argonauts, and Montreal Alouettes, surpassing his more than 5,757 yards passing, 3,212 yards rushing, and 34 touchdowns.

Twenty-five years ago, it was Tracy who hooked up with Frankie Johnson for a touchdown with 10 seconds remaining to give Georgia Southern a 44–42 victory over Furman in its first national championship title. The next year, the Eagles made another successful championship run under Tracy’s leadership with the triple option offense. Paul Johnson, offensive coordinator, who installed the triple option offense in 1984 under Erk Russell’s direction, says, “Ham could change the outcome of a game faster than anyone I’ve ever coached.”

Ham’s wife, Valerie, and their sons, Tracy II and Caleb, joined former Eagle teammates Ricky Harris, Herman Barron, Robert Baker, and former Southern basketball player Mike Curry at the ceremony in Saskatoon. Tracy concludes, “You realize a lot of people contributed to your success. I’m very grateful to have been a part of the puzzle.”

Moore Distinguished Service Awardee

The Southern Conference announced, in June, that Phil Moore (ACCT, 1982) was awarded its 2010 Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his contribution to the institution.

The award was presented by Carolina Ford Dealers at the Southern Conference Honors Dinner, Hilton Head Island, SC, this summer.

The Distinguished Service Award program was started in 2002 as a way for the Conference to recognize individuals from its member institutions who have contributed significantly to all aspects of the university.

Joining Moore as this year’s honorees include G. A. Sywassink, Appalachian State; George and Marie Barnette, College of Charleston; William (Bill) F. Schupp, Appalachian State; Greg V. Pressley, Elon; and Mrs. F. Pelzer Barry, Jr., Furman; Pat Hielsher, UNC Greensboro; Lynn Boggs, Samford; Robert T. (Bob) Davis, Chattanooga; Steve White, Western Carolina; and John Banknight, Wofford.

A 1982 graduate of Georgia Southern, Moore is a managing partner in Porter Keade Moore, LLP in Atlanta. He has been a long time member of the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation Board and serves as its president from 2007 until 2009. Under his leadership the Foundation effected a name change to the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation and constructed several athletic facilities. Moore played an integral role in leading the organization through a two branding initiatives, “Rings and Diplomas” and “For all the Right Reasons.” He was recognized as the College of Business Administration Alumnus of the Year in 2001 and Georgia Southern Outstanding Accounting Alumnus in 1999.

Ori James Scholarship

The Beta Gamma Sigma business honorary society was created in 1922 under the leadership of Dean Ori James when Dean James passed away in 2009, Beta Gamma Sigma created a scholarship fund in his name to commemorate his organization and support of the business honorary society.

In order to fund the scholarship, COBA alumnus J. T. Marburger donated the use of an Atlanta Braves suite at Turner Field as a fundraiser this summer. Through the generosity of alumni, friends, and supporters, the effort raised more than $5,000 toward the scholarship fund.

Elliottburg, Elon; Colonel and Mrs. F. Pelzer Barry, Jr., Furman; Pat Hielsher, UNC Greensboro; Lynn Boggs, Samford; Robert T. (Bob) Davis, Chattanooga; Steve White, Western Carolina; and John Banknight, Wofford.

Mr. Clarence Davis, former CFO and COO of the American Institute of CPAs, was the featured speaker for the 2010 School of Accountancy 15th Annual Executive in Residence program in October. Davis’s career took him from a farm to Wall Street, from a

COBA Business Advisory Council

The College of Business Administration hosted its 23rd Annual Fall Advisory Board Meeting on October 29-30 at the Georgia Southern campus. Chair Lee Thompkins welcomed new member Greg V. Pressley, CSS, Inc., consultant and certified Oracle Network Partner, and members in attendance, Hoke Brunson, Southwest Airlines, retired; Don Callaway, USMC, retired; Nancy Herring, professor, retired; Billy Hickman, Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon; Kelly Jones, accountant, retired; Tommy Jones, Jones, Jones, Davis, & Associates; Doug Lambert, Southeastern Hospitality Services; Matt Lane, Gen Cap America; Lurue Lord, Lord Eye Center; Grey Meybohm, Meybohm Realtors; Phil Moore, Porter Keade Moore; Toby Moreau, BB&T Corporation; Robin Rich, Automation Systems and Controls; Bob Sanders, UBS Financial Services; Bill Sprague, Savannah Smooth Roads; and Kenny Stone, attorney.

COBA Dean Ronald Shiffer presented the Dean’s Report highlighting record fall enrollment of 19,691, a 3.2 percent increase from Fall 2009; proposals for a new on-line Executive MBA and Web Master of Accounting program for the college; the Web MBAs celebrating its tenth anniversary; COBA being named to "The Princeton Review’s “Best Business School” list for the fifth consecutive year; and, COBA’s leadership in developing the “City Campus” and preparing for the University’s future Capital Campaign.

The traditional breakout and report sessions followed with strategic plan and 2012-13 AACSB Accreditation discussions and feedback. The two-day program ended at with a disappointing football game in Paulson Stadium against Samford University.

School of Accountancy Advisory Council

The School of Accountancy hosted its annual Advisory Council Meeting in the Professional Development Center, CIT building, in October. The executive committee, Phil Moore, chair; Billy Hickman, vice chair; Jim Creamer, faculty development liaison; and Tim Veal, student recruitment, retention, and placement coordinator, recognized the council for its generous support of officers and leadership Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting fraternity, attending the August 2010 national meeting, San Francisco, as a host chapter. The members in attendance included Greg Cashman, Smith & Howard, Atlanta (John Lucht); Jim Creamer, Draffin & Tucker, Albany; Alex Gambill, Pricewaterhouse Cooper, Charlotte; Billy Griffin, Hancock Askew & Co., Savannah (Mike McCarthy); Richard Henry, Holland, Henry & Bromley, Savannah; Bill Herring, WACO Fire & Casualty Insurance, retired, Statesboro; Bil Hickman, Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, Statesboro; Ralfo Hodges, Atlanta Spirit, Atlanta; Alex Knight, Habif, Arroget & Wyme, Atlanta; Charlie Martin, Moore Stephens & Tiller, Brunswick; Phil Moore, Porter Keade Moore, Atlanta; Greg Morgan, Mauldin & Jenkins, Atlanta; and, Tim Veal, Nichols Cauley & Associates, Dublin. In other business, the group agreed to have Accounting Advisory Council members participate in the search for a new director of the School of Accountancy and revised two items of the by-laws.
Greetings from the MBA Program! We have had an exciting and busy fall here in COBA. We have new faces, more national recognition, and a new program in the works! First, I would like to say thank you to Angela Leverett who was a mainstay in the MBA office for several years. She accepted a new position with the Board of Regents in July.

As a result of Angela’s departure, the MBA office has a new recruiting coordinator, which will help us expand and improve our efforts in the recruiting and admissions arena. Karen Wells, formerly assistant to Linda Wilke in the Development Office, has recently stepped into the recruiting coordinator role and we are delighted to have her! We are recruiting a new assistant MBA director to improve our connections and contact with alumni. If you are an MBA alum, we would love to hear your feedback or success stories. You can find us on Linked In under the group name, “Georgia Southern COBA MBA Students and Alumni” or become a fan of our Facebook group, “Georgia Southern University MBA Program.” You can also drop us an email at mba@georgiasouthern.edu.

On to national recognition, for the fifth year in a row, The Princeton Review has named COBA as one of its “301 Best Business Schools.” The publication surveys more than 19,000 students in AACSB-accredited MBA programs around the world to determine which schools stand out above the rest. Our students, once again, cited Georgia Southern’s affordability, the quality of instruction, and approachability of administration as factors contributing to the success of the MBA Program. We are so thankful to our students and alumni for participating in this survey because without your feedback, the recognition would not be possible. We would also like to express our gratitude to the MBA faculty for continuing to provide exceptional instruction and guidance to our students.

Finally, we have submitted a proposal for a new Executive MBA program to be primarily delivered online. If approved, it will launch in Fall 2011. Offering a focus in entrepreneurial leadership, the program will be geared toward working professionals with at least seven years of work experience. By focusing on entrepreneurial leadership, we hope to attract those seeking to be innovative leaders within their organization or who have a passion for entrepreneurship. Keep your fingers crossed because our success is your success! 

David M. Coleman

David M. Coleman (BBA, 1978; MBA, 2001) recently celebrated the five-year anniversary of The Old Post Office Café in Brooklet. He and co-owner, Greg Frost, developed the restaurant and catering business in 2005 and have become known throughout south Georgia for their wonderful food and catering delights. David had been a comptroller for an electrical supply company and firm administrator in a CPA firm for over 25 years when he decided to leave the corporate world for entrepreneurship. When the U.S. Postal Service decided to build a new post office in Brooklet, the availability of the old post office building opened the door of opportunity and the rest is history. His successful café and catering business has allowed him to maintain strong relationships with people from the surrounding communities and Georgia Southern. David has found happiness as a successful small business owner. He currently resides in Statesboro and enjoys reading, traveling, and gardening.

Christopher Kimbrough

Christopher Kimbrough (POLS, 2006; MBA 2008) has been awarded a 2011 Baker & Daniels’ Law Firm scholarship. The $10,000 educational scholarship includes placement in the firm’s summer associate class. The scholarships were established in 2007 for students of varied ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds, including lifestyles, disabilities, and unique viewpoints. Recipients of the scholarship are selected by Baker & Daniels’ executive committee. Baker & Daniels, LLP, with more than 370 attorneys, has offices in Fort Wayne and South Bend, IN, Chicago, IL, Washington, DC, and Beijing, China.

Dr. L. Dwight Sneathen, new program director for the Master of Accountancy, reports a 30 percent increase in enrollment from Fall 2009 to Fall 2010. In the traditional master degree program, the faculty is exploring opportunities to offer more courses in taxation and business valuation, and the Becker CPA Review offering continues to increase CPA Exam pass rates.

The scope of the program is also growing with the introduction of new programs. We now offer a master of accountancy with a concentration in forensic accounting, including courses in fraud schemes, fraud detection methods, expert witnessing, interview and interrogation techniques, and computer forensics. The program provides a comprehensive curriculum preparing students to pass the Certified Fraud Examiner and Financial Forensics exams. Our newest program, the on-line WEBMAcc, slated for launch in Fall 2011, is in approval. This two year, lock step program will allow students not located near a physical campus to pursue the degree online.

Overall, the program’s future is bright as excellent students continue to apply, and the number of firms recruiting them grows each year, including Big Four accounting firms from Jacksonville, Charlotte, and Atlanta; Wal-Mart; and government agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Audits and Office of the Inspector General.
ALUMNI in the SPOTLIGHT

Linda Mercedes Zablah

Erin Schrimpf

Demeré Sikes

Carol Denese Register

Cheryl Zak

Erin C. Schrimpf

Linda Mercedes Zablah (MKT, 1999) became an assistant manager for Limited, Inc., in the Orlando Fashion Square Mall, Orlando, FL, before returning to her native country of Honduras and joining Demesa Office Solutions, San Pedro Sula, a family-owned company and manufacturer, merchandiser, and distributor of office furniture. Mercedes has ten years experience in administration and quality control, having been responsible for implementing the Quality System, ISO9001, for the company. In 2008, the company won a national award for the “Greatest Exporting Company of Honduras, Metals Area.”

Mercedes and her husband reside in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and have an 18-month old son. They are eagerly awaiting the birth of their second child within the year.◆

Cheryl Zak (MGT, 1981) is owner and director of The Forsyth Yoga Center, Dawsonville. After graduation, Cheryl began her business career as a project manager at Digital Equipment Corporation in Atlanta. She then moved to account executive in the automotive industry for IBM in Southfield, Michigan, and later served as a business consultant for their corporate clients.

Cheryl established her presence in the yoga for health and wellness arena through volunteer work as the former President of the Yoga Association of Greater Detroit and a founder and charter member of the Southeast Yoga Association in Atlanta. Cheryl is a Registered Yoga Teacher and Trainer with the national group, Yoga Alliance, and a member of the International Association of Yoga Therapists. She serves as a community resource for the Georgia Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Commission.

Cheryl graduated from Georgia Southern, summa cum laude, where she received the Frederick W. Taylor Award and became a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma honor societies. She later attended the executive education program at The Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania. Cheryl and her husband, Alan, have been married for 36 years and love to attend Atlanta Symphony concerts and Atlanta Braves and Thrashers games.◆

Demeré Sikes

Demeré Sikes (MKT, 1995) has recently accepted a newly created position as public relations director for the Liberty County Board of Education. Her role in the new position is to keep people informed and updated on the news and activities of the school system. Prior to accepting this position, Demeré served as a banking officer and marketing director for a community bank and taught at Savannah Christian Academy. Her banking and education experience and contacts were an ideal fit for her new role as public relations director, as her family is from the Liberty County area.

Demeré is a member of the Kiwanis Club, Prevent Child Abuse Liberty, and the Family Connections Collaborative.◆

Carol Denese Register (MKT, 1981) began her career in 1983 as a customer service representative for a real estate company in Atlanta. Later, she worked in the advertising industry for a brief stint before becoming a manager for the American Red Cross, Savannah in 1992. She is currently Public Affairs and Resource Development Coordinator for the Savannah Chapter. Denese is responsible for developing, managing, and supporting active media relations for 31 counties in Southeast Georgia. She has diversified experience in public relations, marketing, sales, advertising, fundraising, special events, and customer service, particularly media relationships.◆

Denese Register

Erin Schrimpf

Erin Schrimpf (LIT, 2005), a Chicago trainmaster for CSX Transportation, has been promoted to manager of total service integration for the compliance and execution team in Jacksonville, FL. CSX is the primary operating subsidiary for CSX Corporation, operating 21,000 miles of rail network in 23 states, serving over 70 ocean, river, and lake ports.

Erin began his career as a management trainee with CSX Transportation. He had the coveted opportunity to work in CSX’s Chicago Trainmaster office. In the CSX network, Chicago is one of the busiest and most complex terminals. Erin operates more than 50 trains daily over Chicago’s railroad networks with more than 200 people working with him on any given day. His job as a trainmaster is very demanding, often requiring 60 to 70 hours a week. Erin and his wife currently reside in Chicago, while his son, Christiana, is in Oregon planning to attend Oregon State University.◆

Denese Register

Mark Your Calendars NOW for . . .

COBA Golf Tourney
May 20, 2011
The 2010 homecoming cookout was held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium on November 6 before the Appalachian State game. Special thanks are extended to Jamie Lane; Matt McGhee; Susan Taylor; the Wells family, Bill, Karen, Brad, and Jesse; Linda Wilke; Lisa Williams; Richard and Susan Williams; Jerry and Myron Wilson; and Rongron Zhang for their help with this event, and to Jan Grimes and Linda Mullen for donating their parking spaces. Later that day, Georgia Southern’s Eagles pulled off a 21–14 OT victory against Appalachian State’s Mountaineers.
COBA Welcomes New Faculty

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the COBA team presented below. We are excited about the talents and skills they bring to COBA. We presently have five faculty and administrative searches for the 2011–2012 academic year: an assistant professor of accountancy and a director for the School of Accountancy; an assistant professor of economics in the School of Economic Development; a director for the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development; and an assistant director, marketing and admissions, for the Master of Business Administration program.

J. Nicholas DeBonis
Lecturer
Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Nick DeBonis is a lecturer in the Department of Management, Marketing and Logistics. A Vietnam veteran who served on active duty in both the Air Force and the Army, Nick earned his Ph.D. in advertising and marketing from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. His master’s degree is in foundations of education from Troy State University and his BA, magna cum laude, is from Flagler College in education and psychology. His wife, Susan, is a professor in the Communication Arts department.

Dr. DeBonis has private sector experience as a senior global marketing consultant in the telecommunications, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries with a Philadelphia-based company. He maintains a marketing consultancy with select clients to maintain contact with the day-to-day business world. Dr. DeBonis’s diverse professional background includes having started and run his own business, and stints in both the talent and business sides of the newspaper and radio media. He has co-authored three successful trade books published by McGraw-Hill for the American Marketing Association and has served on the faculty at the Gouzeta Business School, Emory, California State–Fullerton, Texas A&M, LSU and Pepperdine universities.

Dr. DeBonis and his wife have two children, Andrew, 23, and Gabriela, 14. They are a soccer family—he still referees high school soccer, his wife is a former coach and both of children played on the state select Lazers team in Peachtree City. The family enjoys wilderness camping, canoeing, and hiking in the North Georgia Mountains, Appalacian Trail, and at the beach.

Robert Szymanski
Assistant Professor
Department of Information Systems

Bob Szymanski joined the College of Business in August 2010 as a lecturer in the Department of Information Systems. He has a BS in arts and science from Boston College and an MBA in information systems from Boston College’s Carroll Graduate School of Management, 1998.

Mr. Szymanski is a certified SAP solutions architect consultant and serves as an instructor for our SAP TERP10 certification program. Along with his academic experience, Mr. Szymanski brings more than 20 years of practical industry experience to the classroom. Mr. Szymanski also owns and operates an independent consulting firm specializing in ERP and management consulting. Mr. Szymanski’s clients have included such companies as Universal Studios, China Grill Management, Hyatt Regency, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Siemens Energy, Inc.

During his spare time, Mr. Szymanski enjoys time with his family, which includes his wife and two children and enjoys golfing and downhill skiing. His sporting interests include the NY Football Giants, NY Yankees, and NASCAR.

Stanley E. Fawcett
Visiting Distinguished Professor
Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Stan Fawcett is visiting distinguished professor of logistics and supply chain management on leave from Brigham Young University’s Marriott School of Management. His teaching and research expertise is centered on global supply chain strategy and collaborative business model design. He has taught executive development programs in Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

Dr. Fawcett received his Ph.D. at Arizona State University and taught at Michigan State University before joining the faculty at the Marriott School. He has published more than 100 articles and six books on supply-chain topics, including design, information technology as a collaboration enabler, leading change through learning, performance measurement, and trust.

Stan is the co-editor-in-chief of the Journal of Business Logistics and a member of the Academy of Management, Council for Supply Chain Management Professionals, Decision Sciences Institute, and Institute of Supply Management.

Yusoon Kim
Assistant Professor
Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Yusoon Kim, BE ’94, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea, M.SE ’02, M.Eng ’03, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has recently completed his Ph.D. in business administration, supply chain management at the Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. In an earlier career, Dr. Kim was an system engineer for an automobile company in South Korea and later in an industry career, involved in constructing new automobile assembly plants in Romania. His research interests include supply network structures and design, supply chain management strategy, buyer-supplier relationship, and the applications of social network and agency theory in the supply chain management context.

G. Scott Webb
Assistant Professor
Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Scott Webb is an assistant professor in logistics. He is earning his Ph.D. in logistics and operations management from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. In addition to his PhD, Mr. Webb has earned a MSc in logistics management from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and a BBA from The College of Idaho.

Mr. Webb’s primary research examines how consumer behavior influences the supply chain. He was an invited presenter on supply chain complexity at the 2007 Decision Sciences Annual Conference and has published articles in the Journal of Operations Management and Decision Science Journal of Innovative Education.

Prior to entering academia, Mr. Webb was a logistics officer for the United States Air Force. During his twelve years in the Air Force, he managed hazardous materials warehouses, aircraft parts warehouses, and war reserve material warehouses. Following the completion of his master degree, Mr. Webb worked as the Officer in Charge of developing functional requirements for USAF supply systems software.

Mr. Webb’s interests include his wife and six children, basketball, volleyball, and the great outdoors. He especially enjoys backpacking, fishing, and hunting.

Sang Un Yung
Visiting Professor
Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Sang Un Yung, BE ’70, mechanical engineering, Yonsei University and PhD ’79, statistics, University of Florida is a visiting honor professor from the College of Economics and Business Administration; Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. He is a highly respected professor, serving in his home country as a director of the Hanshin Engineering Corporation, chair of the Forum of New Quality Management, assistant to the president of Hyundai Automobile Company, and judge for the Korean Total Quality Awards, a program similar to the U.S. Malcolm Baldrige Awards. Previously, Dr. Yung served as chair of the Society of Engineering Statistics in Korea and vice president of the Yonbion University of Science and Technology in China, as well as dean of External Affairs and Development at his alma mater, Yonsei University. His experience includes previous visiting professorships at Georgia Southern and the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Yung’s areas of interest include quality control, design of experiment, regression, multivariate analysis, credit risk management, and customer relationship management. He has published extensively in the area of reliability, statistics, methods, and structural equation models in the Journal of Korean Society for Quality Management, and culminating in “Six Sigma Quality Innovation” published by Freedom Academy in 2006.

Dr. Yung, his wife, two sons, and daughter enjoy tennis, golf, volleyball, and music.
**COBA Golfers Earn Honors**

The Golf Coaches Association of America announced this summer that Georgia Southern's golfers Matt Deal and Logan Blondell were named to the Cleveland Srixon All-America Scholar list. The Eagle trio tied 116 other Division I golfers in receiving this national honor and helped propel Georgia Southern to the Southeast Regional No. 1 with six other schools for the seven players represented by a Division I collegiate golf program on the All-America Scholars list.

For Spence Fulford, this elite recognition was the second in his collegiate career, having previously earned the honor last year with a 3.61 GPA. Fulford’s stroke average for the season was 73.62. His 9-under par 63 at the Springhill Suites Intercollegiate set a new tournament and competitive course record, helping the Eagles win the tournament, and tied three other players for the all-time lowest round in Georgia Southern history. His 3.69 GPA in management was the highest among Eagle golfers and he was selected the Male Scholar Athlete at Georgia Southern for 2009-10. As a senior, Fulford was selected to the Southern Conference Academic All-Conference team for the third time.

Also earning All-America Scholar honor were Logan Blondell and Matt Deal, with 3.56 and 3.37 GPAs in finance and marketing. Their stroke averages were 74.35 and 75, respectively. Logan’s best performance occurred at the NCAA Southeast Regional where he fired a 2-under par 208 for second place and tied his 54-hole career low. Matt’s 2-under par 70 at the Augusta State Invitational set a new career-low and also helped him card a 54-hole career-low 208.

**PKM Supports Forensic Program**

Georgia Southern University recently announced its participation in the Forensic Studies program. The program, led by Professor Matthew T. Eberhart, is designed to prepare students for careers in forensic accounting and fraud investigation. The program offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes courses in accounting, mathematics, statistics, and legal studies. Students in the program will have the opportunity to work with faculty who have extensive experience in the field, as well as gain practical experience through internships and co-op opportunities.

**SIFE Inducts Advisory Board**

In September, COBA’s Students in Free Enterprise chapter, SIFE, held its first meeting with the 2010 Business Advisory Board. Club President, Jevon Thomas, announced that Barry Westbrook, general manager of the Statesboro Walmart distribution center, had agreed to be the chair of the SIFE Business Advisory Board. Engagement with Walmart is particularly important for the students involved in SIFE because Walmart is the lead sponsor of the worldwide SIFE organization. Members of the advisory board include Westbrooks; Miles Williams, UniHealth Source; Cleve White, Cleve White Nissan; Rachel Edwards, Wright & Edwards, P.C.; Sarah Chester, First Southern National Bank; Kate Gary, Chamber of Commerce; Lynn Lilly, The Lilly Group, LLC; and Kathleen Gruben, Georgia Southern. In other business, Luke Pottaway, faculty advisor and director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, recapped the purpose of SIFE, its history at Georgia Southern, future strategic direction and the role of the Advisory Board. He touched on topics of how members of the board can engage SIFE students and connectivity among community groups and organizations relevant SIFE projects.

**Eastman Receives Stanley Award**

At each WebMBA™ graduation, the graduating class selects one professor as recipient of the Stanley Award, named for Dean Ken Stanley, Valdosta State University, one of the founding deans and architects of the WebMBA™ program. Jacqueline K. Eastman has been selected as the most recent Georgia Southern winner of the Ken Stanley WebMBA™ Teaching Award. This is the second time Jackie has won this award. She won it previously as a professor at Kennesaw State University, where she taught before coming to Georgia Southern.

**Center for Forensic Studies**

The Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business, in conjunction with the School of Accountancy, offered students a unique opportunity to interact with forensic experts this fall. The presentations offered a great experience for the students, where they had the opportunity to learn in an interactive, hands-on environment focusing on fundamental academic and interpersonal skills.

School of Accountancy Director Jill Lockwood praised the Center Director Don Breeze for his comprehensive oversight of the student learning programs of the center, “Don has made it possible for students to experience state-of-art technical expertise from the speakers who are engaged daily with the application of the skills taught in the classroom.”

Tom Ackerman, special agent, Office of Inspector General, met with the student chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and also addressed students in the Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership class, discussing “Informants and the Michael Vick Investigation.” “Getting a Job in Federal Law Enforcement,” “Interviews and Interrogations.” His information-packed session included identifying all the primary law enforcement agencies and types of positions available, with a concurrent theme of “There are tremendous forensic opportunities in law enforcement.” He also discussed the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, career fair strategies, internships and strategies, and how to get hired. In the white collar crime class, Tom discussed the use of informants in investigations. Then, sharing his 30+ years of experience, he participated with students in an interview exercise, identifying truth and deception by interpreting non-verbal behavior in the forensic interviews and interrogation class.

White Collar Crime students met with Federal and Georgia Bureau of Investigation investigators at the Waycross prosecutor’s office prior to a ten-year sentencing of gasoline station operators convicted of fraudulently calibrating gas pumps and, later, after sentencing, with the judge in her chambers to better understand the case. Later, from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brain Tanner and Forensic Accountant Karen Hartley came to the White Collar Crime classroom to discuss “Plea Agreements and White Collar Crime Prosecution” and “Interviewing in Investigations” in the case. Recently, the class toured the Jesup housing facility operated by the Bureau of Prisons to understand the full impact and implications of the ten-year sentence in the case.

The student chapter of the Association of Fraud Examiners traveled to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Brunswick to tour the IRS training facility there and learn about the IRS Inspector General’s function. They made a stop at the Behavioral Science Interviewing Complex to experience the computer simulation training and the center’s interviewing capabilities along with a visit to the Jesup Federal Correction Institution for a tour of the low security facility and work camp.

Marty Bragg, probation officer, U.S. Probation Office, Southern District of Georgia spoke to the White Collar Crime class on “Federal Sentencing Guidelines,” discussing the purpose, mission, and function of U.S. Probation Office, a $1 million dollar book store fraud, the $225,000 unauthorized personal use of purchase cards at a military base, and two case examples to illustrate the application of the federal sentencing guidelines.

Daphne Jarriel, assistant district attorney, Ogeechee Judicial District, also spoke to the class, discussing her career choice to go to law school, the functions of the District Attorney’s Office, and its coordination with investigators and the courts. In her presentation, Daphne highlighted a case involving a Statesboro business and $2.1 million dollars in fraudulent loans.

Later, students in fraud and forensic accounting and justice studies had the opportunity to attend the Mock Civil Trial at the Bulloch County Courthouse.

Finally, Alexander Gambill, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Charlotte, spoke to information system fraud and forensic accounting students in classes taught by Tom MacKinnon, Camille Rogers, Robert Szymanski, Chuck Harper, Tim Cairney, and Eddie Metrejan. He then joined the leadership of the accounting student organizations, Beta Alpha Psi, Accounting Association, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the National Association of Black Accountants for dinner.

The next day Alex joined the faculty and students of Beta Alpha Psi for an open question and answer session lunch.
Thank You 2010 Eagle Executive Society Members!

The Eagle Executive Society is an annual membership society focused upon relationships with COBA alumni and friends. The $50 annual membership investment supports educational activities beyond the classroom, including travel scholarships, student engagement, and research activities to ensure the best technology, facilities, and learning opportunities are available for today’s students. The Society’s funding is directed 100 percent to prepare the next generation’s business leaders. Members receive an Eagle Executive Society stock certificate, recognition in the Eagle Executive, and invitations to special events sponsored by the college. Charter membership renewals or new memberships for 2010 and 2011 are accepted online at http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/ (click on EExS and then click Pay Online) or call Linda Wilke at 912-478-5050 for a membership form. Active members—including charter, renewed, and new are—acknowledged below. We appreciate your support.

Trip Addison
Richard E. Aldredge
Mark H. Anderson
Frances M. Bagley
Rhonda O. Banks
Stephen W. Barber
Perry C. Barnett
Charles R. Barr
Matthew S. Bean
Richard A. Bean
Paul T. Bennett
Donald L. Berez
Edmilson Bernardes
Gary A. Blount
Leonard H. Blount
William H. Bolen
William J. Bostwick
Edward S. Bowles
Esther Bowman
Richard Bowman
Richard Jorris Bowman
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.
M. Albert Burke
Kenneth C. Butler
Lisa Butler
Michael R. Calhoun
Donald E. Callaway
Constance R. Campbell
Ronald L. Cannon
Brenda S. Carter
Harry S. Carter
Rosemary Carter
Thomas L. Case
Wesley S. Cobb
James Thomas (Tom) Coe
Doug Collins III
G. Gregory Colson
Lisa Conti-Bacon
Charles C. Cox, III
Brannon Cummings
Linsey E. Cummings
W. Mike Cummings
R. Bruce Dannely, Sr.
Elynn Davis
James E. Davis, Jr.
Frances S. Deal
Julian I. Deal
Luther “Trey” Denton, III
John F. Dismuke
Jacqueline K. Eastman
Kevin L. Eastman
Peter L. Fraley
Jenny L. Gentry
Carl Gooding
Jan Grimes
Mark D. Hanna
Horace W. Harrell, Jr.
Larry F. Harrison
Charles Harter
Jack W. Hartley
Peter Hayes
William D. Head
William R. Hickman, Jr.
Jeremy Hinton
Melissa Holland
James M. Hood
Walter R. Huggins
Evan W. Huggins
Feruzan S. Irani
Matthew H. Janofsky
John F. (Jack) Jennings
Linsey D. Johnson, Jr.
Michael K. Johnson
Daniel C. Johnston
Kauffman Tire, Inc.
Brooks A. Keel
Stephen W. Keene
Grayson C. Kelly
Julia Ann Kelly
Sharon Kelly
Russell L. Kent
William C. Kirby
Brian Kramschuster
Douglas H. Lambert
Jamie Lane
Josh Mathew (Matt) Lane
John Leaptrott, Jr.
Buddy Litchy
Robert S. Lovein
David M. Luckie
Abby Lynes
Chandan Maitrani
Todd Manack
William W. McCartney
Mike McDonald
Samuel A. McDuffie
Robert McGregor
William S. Mclean II
John T. McManus
C. Robert Melton
Lowell Mooney
D. Greg Morgan
G. Mike Odom, Jr.
David K. Pitman
Luke A. Pittaway
James Pollak
Barbara A. Price

Larry E. Price
RadioJones, LLC
Danny K. Ricks
Patrick S. Rising
Jason A. Roberts
Stephen J. Rountree
Joseph P. Ruhland
Michael R. Sanders
Brandon T. Sauers
Thomas Sherrouse
Barbara Shiffler
Ron Shiffler
Ralph S. Sikes, Jr.
Carole J. Smith
L. Dwight Sneathen, Jr.
Brian E. Snell
Charlene K. Stewart
Lewis M. Stewart
Robert H. Stoddard
William N. Straw, Jr.
Perry Sumner, Jr.
Cathy Owens Swift
Thomas L. Tharpe
Robert E. Thigpen, Jr.
Valerie A. Thompson
Lee R. Tompkins, Jr.
Kris M. Trainor
F. Ward Trulock
Scott C. Tuten
Karen R. Wells
William H. Wells
Joy A. West
Linda Wilke
Susan R. Williams
Jerry Wilson
Steven J. Wilson
Jonathan D. Woodard
William R. Woolford
Thomas O. Yarbrough

(Charter Members)
IMA’s Thomson Visits Georgia Southern

Jeffrey C. Thomson, CEO and president, Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), was guest of COBA’s School of Accountancy and the Savannah IMA Chapter at the Performing Arts Center in the campus Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education building August 19. Georgia Southern accounting student, Isaac Bell, president of COBA’s Accounting Association, presented Thomson, who spoke about “The Certified Managerial Accountant Program,” an essential credential for a career in management accounting. In closing, Brenden Adams, VP professional programs, Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honorary society, thanked Thomson, summarized his remarks, and presented appreciation.

Thomson holds an MS degree in statistics, Montclair State University, and certifications in finance and accounting, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; senior executive leadership, Columbia University; and management innovation, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A career accountant for more than 20 years with AT&T, retiring as CFO for the business sales division with $18 billion in revenue, Thomson formally joined IMA in 2005, initially serving as its vice president for research and application development. As CEO and president, he is currently responsible for operations, products, and services, as well as leading and directing programs for IMA. In his short tenure, he has developed and launched the IMA Research Center of Excellence and become a global leader in the emerging area of governance, risk management, and compliance.

He serves on the board of directors of the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations, an international organization offering global positioning guidance on internal controls and enterprise risk management. Accomplished speaker, author of numerous trade articles, and quoted in The Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Compliance Week, and Global Risk Regulator, Mr. Thomson travels globally addressing topics of financial leadership, risk management, business performance, strategic planning, costing, and competitive analysis.

The IMA is the world’s leading association for accountants and financial professionals in business. The Savannah Chapter, organized in 1965, is lead by President Kenneth Crowe, Robert Half International; VP Administration and Finance Roy Austin, Rockwell Business Solutions, LLC.; VP Communications and Community Relations Yolanda Harris, Georgia-Pacific Corporation; VP Scholarships J. Devi Ali, D.J. Powers Company, Inc.; VP Professional Education Tim Cairney, Georgia Southern University; Secretary Paul Hammad, Ports America; and, Treasurer Denise Marsh, Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

BBRED Outreach

The mission of the Bureau of Business Research & Economic Development (BBRED) is to provide critical information and economic development analysis for the region and state. The Effingham Hospital Modernization Study and the Economic Impact of Engineering Programs in the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology are projects which, through BBRED’s research, clients have been able to obtain policy outcomes supportive of their goals.

In the initial project, BBRED was approached by the Effingham Hospital Authority to examine its modernization plan for adding a surgical facility. Three aspects of the project included analysis of the market for surgical services, evaluating the economic impact of construction and operations, and the estimating the continuation value of current property tax allocations. Utilizing BBRED studies, the modernization plan was approved by the Effingham County Board of Commissioners and a grant application was submitted to fund the expansion.

For the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, the client’s goal was to expand its engineering technology program to an engineering degree program. A BBRED report demonstrated the economic value of the current operations and illustrated the future value of proposed changes. Projections developed for student enrollment, student expenditure, and operating budgets were incorporated into a larger proposal to the Board of Regents. The proposal for a degree program was approved in November, and the full scale engineering program will begin in the Fall 2011.

Additionally, BBRED continues to engage in research of interest to the general public. The Seventh Annual Consumer Confidence and Holiday Shopping Expectation Survey was released in mid-November. It focuses on eleven Coastal Empire counties in Georgia and two Lowcountry counties in South Carolina. The survey was developed and administered by BBRED in coordination with Dr. Jacqueline Eastman and her marketing research class. For the first time in five years, consumers appear to be planning to increase their holiday spending per person, although still lower than the peak levels of 2005 or 2006.

It also appears consumers are slowly regaining confidence after several years of spending declines. With bargain shopping being the primary focus of the holiday shopping season this year, it appears discount stores, like Wal-Mart or Target, and outlet malls will gain a larger proportion of the holiday shopping dollar. Overall, BBRED’s analyses indicate a 2-3 percent increase in holiday sales this year.

Finally, BBRED conducts an annual study that examines a nine-county region, including Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Candler, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Jenkins, and Screven, to determine the annual economic impact of Georgia Southern University on the region. For fiscal year 2010, Georgia Southern University had a total economic impact of $795.3 million. The increase of almost $55 million over fiscal year 2009 was primarily due to a 7.4 percent increase in total student enrollment over the time period.

For more information about BBRED’s research, or to discuss a future project, please call Joy West at (912) 478-0872, or visit the website at www.bbred.org.

Center for Entrepreneurship

The variety of programs, events, and field trips of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership this fall has been exciting and interactive for students.

Family Business Burnout Research Seminar

The September 2010 seminar, a research presentation, “Burnout in Entrepreneurship and Family Firms,” by Morgan Miles, David Shepherd, and Gaia Marchisio, focused on understanding the burnout occurrences in family firms due to the family’s presence and influence in the firm.

Frank L. Lane Lecture

Frank Lane, brand entrepreneur and former president Neutrogena Products, presented “The Four Sequential Steps of Entrepreneurial Success” lecture at the Nessmith-Lane Building Assembly Hall to more than 300 in attendance. Mr. Lane explained the four principles of entrepreneurship and essential steps to creating entrepreneurial culture.

Forex.com Competition Results

The Entrepreneurship Club sponsored a Forex.com Competition simulation where contestants are provided $50,000 in start-up capital to invest currency on Forex.com. The competition winners, Ryan Lewis, third place with $15,000 profit; Joshua Alber, second place, earning $18,000; and Mike Chrysos, grand prize winner, producing more than $30,000 in gains, were awarded $25, $50, and $125, respectively. Next year’s competition is expected to be sponsored by AmeriTrade.

Georgia Senator Tommie Williams

Professor Jim Williams’ MGNT 3234 entrepreneurship classes learned how being an entrepreneur prepares one for the challenges and opportunities of serving in public office. Senator Tommie Williams, a successful Toombs County tree farmer and pine straw business owner for many years, was first elected to the Georgia 19th State Senate District in 1988. He received a MED from Georgia Southern.

Meinhardt Vineyard Field Trip

The Entrepreneurship Club, under the direction of Dr. Pittaway and Scott Chaney, arranged an early fall visit to Meinhardt Vineyard & Winery. Ken Meinhardt, Jr., owner, guided the tour and explained the history of the winemaking and the Meinhardt winery.

Mark Anderson Scholarship

Andrew Southerland was awarded the Mark Anderson Scholarship for Entrepreneurship and Small Business. He is a senior Management major, with minors in Military Science and Spanish, who hopes to open and operate his own business in the future. The benefactor, Anderson, earned a Georgia Southern BBA in 1985 and is co-owner of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home, Statesboro.

Entrepreneurship Education in Engineering Technology

Center director, Dr. Luke Pittaway, and Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology professor, Dr. Anoop A. Desai, have submitted a $200,000 grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to develop and embed entrepreneurship education in technology engineering courses. If approved, the grant may lead to business incubator opportunities in their respective fields of study.
Accounting

Larry K. Williams (1967), Statesboro, is now a real estate agent with Century 21, The Hunter Group.

Sharan D. Morris (1977), Basley, is the owner of the Morris Finance Company.

Sandi Stovall Sharpe (1992), Guyton, is an insurance agent with State Farm Insurance, Rincon. She is married to Michael Williamson.

Matthew B. Sellers (2008; MAcc 2008), audit associate with Porter, Keadle, Moore, Savannah, is now in Savannah, where he is a banker working for the Savannah market. His husband is Aulbert Brannen.

Scott Noblitt (1997), Statesboro, was recently named a director for the Association of College and University Auditors (ACUA) Midyear Conference. The 2011 conference date will be announced soon.

Brian Prevatt (2009; MAcc 2009), Savannah, is a staff accountant with Hankow Askew & Co., LLP.

Bus Admin

L. Harris Churchwell (1962), Hawkinsville, is now retired as a management consultant for ALT Lighting, Lithia Springs. He is the author of Civil War books including Captains of Rest, winner of the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal given by the National Daughters of the Confederacy in recognition of his work as Keeper of History Awards given by the Lowndes County Historical Society, and is currently writing Seeking Glory, a history of the 12th Georgia Regiment. He is married to Judy Kohn.

Seth S. Goldman (2002), Savannah, is a staff accountant at HDW Willis & Co.

Economic

George Evans (1975), Savannah, is now a management consultant with the Atlantic Bank and Trust Company. His wife is Nancy.

Victor L. Dickey (1982), Statesboro, is the office manager for Cleve White Nissan Auto Co. His wife is Laura.

Jose Luis Zuo (1990), Key Biscayne, Fl., is the chief financial officer, development manager for STI Holdings, LLC. He is married to Andrea Alvarez. Email: joezou@hotmail.com.

Megan Blanton Meadows (2006), Conyers, is the receptionist/billing associate for John Brown Trucking, Lithonia. Email: m.meadows@browntrucking.com.

Jennifer Lynn Chase (2010), Statesboro, currently employed by Citizens Bank of Statesboro, has been engaged by Grady K. "Red" Reddick, a Georgia Southern political science graduate. The wedding is scheduled for December 11, 2010, in Statesboro.

Finance

David T. Wrenn (1981), Townsend, is the supervisory examiner for the Georgia Dept. of Banking and Finance, Atlanta. Email: davidwrenn55@hotmail.com.

Charles C. Duggan, Jr. (1966), Statesboro, is the vice president-corporate affairs for Daniel Defense Corp., Black Creek. He is also the CMO for a sister company, Defense Products, Inc. Charles is married to Melissa Palmer, a 1988 Georgia Southern management major. Email: dduggan@danieldefense.com.

Mark S. Barwick (1989), Atlanta, is a senior manager at Ernst & Young, LLP. He has 25 years of professional experience and manages the risk control team for financial services and manufacturing clients. Email: mark.barwick@ernst.com.

Ashley Hines Ellis (1992), Statesboro, is a CPA and is owner of Ashley Hines, CPA, LLC.

Information Systems

Mark A. Mettler (2000), Springfield, is married to Ruth Newton, a native of Manchester, England. On March 1, 2008, he was involved in a near-fatal skydiving accident in Rockmart. When he wakes from
the corn in Spring 2009, he did rehab at South Fulton Medical Center in Georgia, where he met his wife. Email: marknetferl@msn.com.

Parker Nealis (2004), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Southport, UK, where he is director of international operations for Select Management Resources and general manager of UK operations for Quicksand Loans, LTD. He is married to Jessica de Boisblanc. Email: parker.nealis@gmail.com.

Chiquita McKeever (2009), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Atlanta, where she is a project engineer for Wipro Technologies. Email: cmckeever86@gmail.com.

Information Technology

Derek Clifton (2004), Statesboro, is now the network IT administrator for Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon, CPAs.

George A. Holland (2008), Windsor Mill, MD, is a field support specialist with CGI Federal, Baltimore, MD. Email: aholland1@gmail.com.

Holly R. Nolland (2008), formerly in Lebanon, VA, is now in Abingdon, VA.

Logistics

Barry W. Saunders (1994), formerly in Tifton, is now in Newnan, where he is the senior applications consultant with Info Global Solutions, Alpharetta. He is married to Jennifer Ritter, a 1996 Georgia Southern management graduate. Email: barry.sanders@infoa.com.

Matthew Adam Tomberlin (2003), Savannah, is now engaged to Jennifer Ritter, a 1996 Georgia Southern construction management graduate. Email: dberry@usfca.com.

B. Steven Rigdon (1992), Metter, is a vice president for Portal Financial Services Corporation, where he is in sales with Verizon, Rincon. He is married to Jackie Ashford, a 2005 Georgia Southern psychology graduate. Email: stntrigo@msn.com.

Business Administration

John A. Estrada (1985), Auburn, AL, is now an internal audit manager at Auburn University. He now has a BA in Spanish from Auburn. John’s wife is Joanna. Email: jestrada@auburn.edu.

B. Steven Rigdon (1992), Metter, is a vice president for the Painel State Bank. He is a 2008 graduate of the LSU Graduate School of Banking. Steven is married to Tina Kennedy, a Georgia Southern alumnus. Email: srigdon@painelbank.com.

Jason L. Lott (1993), Baxley, is the owner of a used and rental car company. He is married to Sandra Kavosky, a 1993 Georgia Southern finance graduate.

Dirk Shane Young (1994), Suwanee, is the ACE regional manager for Antigo Propane, Doraville. He is married to Heather Morris, 1989 Georgia Southern COE graduate. Email: dirk.young@amagosa.com.

Cynthia Crider Jarrell (1997), Metter, is the HR director for Cider Poultry and part-time nurse for the Cancer Swingbed Rehab Center, Metter. She is married to Stewart Jarrell. Email: jarrell@painel.net.

Luke Bryan (1999), Brentwood, TN, a popular country singer, recently married Caroline Boyer, a 2003 Georgia Southern marketing major. Email: chboyer14@hotmail.com.

Ronald Brooks Adams, Jr. (2000), Statesboro, is now an auditor with Georgia Southern. He is married to Susan Wells, and they have three children. Email: rba4@gsu.edu.

Brandon A. Blair (2000; MBA 2001), formerly in Edinburg, is now in Statesboro, where he is the co-owner of the 180 Fitness. He is married to Susan Wells and they have three children. Email: bba6@gsu.edu.

Allison DeArmon Toole (1991), formerly in Tecomus, CA, is now in Cumming. She is married to Tom J. Toole, and they have three children: Jay (14), Grant (11), and Carley Rose (8). Email: allisontoule@msn.com.

Tom J. Toole (1991), formerly in Tecomus, CA, is now in Cumming, where he is the director of business development for the Toro Corporation. He is married to Allison DeArmon, a 1991 Georgia Southern marketing major, and they have three children: Jay (14), Grant (11), and Carley Rose (8). Email: tom.toole@toro.com.

Kurt Russell George (1992), formerly in Roswell, GA, is now in Virginia Beach, VA, where he is the branch manager of Patterson Dental Company. His wife is Angela. Email: kurt@georgealg.com.

John K. Pritchard (1992), Ft. Lauderdale, FL, is the senior director of investments for Omega Portfolio Management, which is part of Oppenheimer & Co., Inc. His wife is April. Email: john.pritchard@opco.com.

Carissa Heck Mays (1994), Dacula, is an associate executive, radiology, for GE Healthcare, Waukesha, WI.

Sean Knox (1998), Columbus, has been selected to participate in the 2011 class of Leadership Georgia.

Bria Bercich (2002), formerly in Douglasville, GA, is now in Tuscaloosa, where she is a marketing specialist with Sage. She is married to Brandon Sheffield. Email: bria.sheffield@sage.com.

Chris Bostain (2002), Jacksonville Beach, FL, is a sales rep for Johnson & Johnson selling surgical implants. Email: bostain@yahoocom.

Oquendo “Wole” Oypadaj (2002), Glen Burnie, MD, is now a paraprofessional for Prince George’s County Schools. Email: woleas0@hotmail.com.

Katherine “Kassi” Adams (2003), formerly in North Augusta, SC, is now on Saint Simons Island, where she is the executive team leader for Target, Brunswick. Email: kassa3253@yahoo.com.

Caroline Boyer Bryan (2003), formerly in Sandersville, GA, is now in Brunswick, GA. Email: cbryan@earthlink.net.

Jonathan Paul Moore, Jr. (2004), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Loganville, where he is the IT project manager for Pressey Solutions, LLC, Alpharetta. His wife is Tiffany. Email: jonathanmoore2004@yahoo.com.

Jared G. Simpson (2004), Savannah, is the results and yard manager for one of Evergreen’s wood recycling yards. He is married to Beth Lott, a 2006 Georgia Southern biology graduate who will complete her pharmacy degree in June. Email: jespaul2891@aol.com.

Chad Lewis Fields (2006), formerly in Marietta, is now a project manager for Addresses of Distinction, Newnan. Chad’s wife is Elizabeth.

Lindsay C. Slough (2006, MBA 2007), Atlanta, is now the executive administrator/human resource director for the Aqua-Tots Swim School, Kennesaw. Lindsay was a G-A in the Office of Publications and worked on the Eagle Executive while at Georgia Southern. She is married to Justin Coleman. Email: wutamunkee@hotmai.com.

Carrie Harrison Arnold (2007), Brunswick, is the co-owner of Superior Exterior Cleaning, Inc. She is married to Erik Arnold. Email: cathanrd@bellsouth.net.

Jeremy “J.I.” Crain (2007), formerly in Savannah, is now in Port Wentworth. He is in sales with Verizon, Rincon. He is married to Jackie Ashton, a 2005 Georgia Southern management graduate.

Cathrine J. Gray (2007), formerly in Athens, is now in New York, NY, where she is married to Moses Lindamood. Email: tina1872000@yahoo.com.

Matthew W. Jackson (2007), Roswell, is the enterprise sales specialist for Hewlett-Packard, Atlanta. He is married to Jordanne Hawks, a 2007 Georgia Southern psychology graduate.

Josh T. Talmadge (2007), formerly in Roswell, is now in Tallahassee, Florida, where he is a clinical sales representative for Ethicon, Inc., Somerville, NJ. Email: josh.talmadge@gmail.com.

Chris J. Young (2007), formerly in Tifton, is now in Macon, where he is in outside sales for Fastenal Corporation. He is currently married to Holly Crawford, a 2006 Georgia Southern psychology graduate.

Kimberly L. Mason (2008), East Point, is a shift coordinator with the Heartland Swim School, Kennesaw. Lindsay was a G-A in the Office of Publications and worked on the Eagle Executive while at Georgia Southern. She is married to Justin Coleman. Email: wutamunkee@hotmai.com.

Rayna Brown (2009), Richmond, VA, is a realtor with Century 21, Dublin. She is married to Travis Dubberly, a 2009 Georgia Southern construction management graduate. Email: rbrown53@progressivevet.com.

Robert Christopher Page (2009), Statesboro, is now a financial services representative with Katie Melissa Stringer, a 2008 Georgia Southern tourism and community leisure graduate.

M. Len Latimer (1967) (Delta Sigma), Valley Village, CA, is president of Lyxun Media, Inc. He is married to Jean Carter, a Georgia Southern alumnus. Email: len@lyxunmedia.com.

Beryl Wagar (1971), now married. Email: wagnerb7@bellsouth.net.

Gary L. May (1974), Johnson City, TN, has two Zaxby’s in Johnson City and a real estate partnership with his son, M & M Properties. He is married to Deana Ruth Howard, a Georgia Southern 1974 education graduate. Email: live2zale@yahoo.com.

Janice D. Strickland (1974), Claxton, is the reference librarian for the Statesboro Regional Library. She is married to Wayne Strickland.

Charles G. Greer (1975), Griffin, is an apparel buyer for HMS Host, Bethesda, MD. Email: cgreer1824@aol.com.

Gray Koonce, Jr. (1981), Gaston, SC, has opened his own business.

Sheryl Littles (1984), Statesboro, is the office manager for the Accelerated Rehabilitation Center in the Augusta area. She is married to Vernon Littles.

Hope S. Merrill (1985),Cumming, is no longer associated with the SouthSouthwest Publishing Co., Alpharetta. She is now raising horses and enjoying the outdoors.

Allison DeArmon Toole (1991), formerly in Tecomus, CA, is now in Cumming. She is married to Tom J. Toole, and they have three children: Jay (14), Grant (11), and Carley Rose (8). Email: allisontoule@msn.com.

IS 2004 - MKT 2003
The official numbers are in for our 2009 A Day for Southern Campaign and we are ecstatic over the results! Many thanks to our faculty and staff who generously support COBA and CTH through A Day for Southern. Your donations and commitment to each of our colleges and students are greatly appreciated. Your gifts are an essential investment in our mission to be the very best. Our 2009 donors are acknowledged below.

Cheryl L. Aasheim
Brenda T. Aytes
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John G. Simshauser (2000), Alpharetta, is the executive director of the American Red Cross. Ryan’s wife is Nyetta.

Kathryn Lynn Bowen-Williams (2002), Biology 1980), Statesboro, is the executive director of the American Red Cross. Ryan’s wife is Nyetta.

Kyle Lee Kimmel (2003), formerly in Lumpkin, is now in Nicholas, where he is an accountant for the Bacon County Hospital and Health System. Email: kimmelkl@bchs.org.

Tammy Lynne Stevenson (2005), Waycross, is a commercial credit analyst for Prime South Bank. She is married to Danny Bennett, and they have a son, Blair Ray (4 mos.). Email: dbennett@primemsouth.com.

Daphanie Thomas Williams (2008), Savannah, is a management analyst for the City of Savannah. She is married to Herman Williams. Email: daphanie.williams02@savannahga.gov.

Kevin Paul Ryan (1990), formerly in Ontario, Canada, is now in Doral, FL, where he is the general manager of Daniel Systems, Inc. He is married to Marlin Duggan Ryan, a 1990 Georgia Southern MBA graduate. Email: kryan@danielsystems.com.

Lydia Nicole Price (2008), formerly in Rincon, is now in Dallas, TX, where she is a project coordinator for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Ft. Worth, TX. She married Colby Jordan on August 1. Email: price12@yahoo.com.

Jos Poo (2009), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Brunswick, where he is employed with Lance, Inc. Email: jashee866@gmail.com.

Kara Marie Scott (2008), formerly in Jesup, is now in Dacula, where she is the national retail field rep for AT&T. She is married to Earl Williams, Jr., a 2008 Georgia Southern finance graduate.

Carmina Fasculi (1992), formerly in Switzerland, is now in Fithers, IN. She is the global marketing director for Roche Diagnostics and Beckman, both international companies. Email: carmina.fasculi@yahoo.com.

Pamela E. Parker (1994), Savannah, is now the commercial banking division manager for The Coastal Bank overseeing commercial lending activities for the bank’s clients with a team of relationship managers.

John G. Simshauser (2000), Alpharetta, is a senior appraiser/project manager for Moreland Ahlafski Associates, Norcross. He is married to Kimberly Faye Saade, a 2003 Georgia Southern MAT graduate. Email: john@simshauser.net.

Javier Prevatt (2001), Raleigh, NC, is the safety and environmental person for Georgia Pacific, Raleigh, NC. His wife is Yvette.

Kathryn Lynn Bowen-Williams (2002), Biology 1980), Statesboro, is the executive director of the American Red Cross. Ryan’s wife is Nyetta.

Ryan Welsh Thompson (2002), Savannah, is the owner/operator of Wilkes Dining Room, Inc., on Jones Street in Savannah. The restaurant has family-style seating with lazy susans on the table tops and has been featured by Dan Rather. Ryan’s wife is Lindsay McCarlke.

Tadzwa Martha Mukangara (2006), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Austin, where she is the SEO analyst for 360i, Atlanta. Email: mukangara@yahoo.com.

Leon C. Prieto (2006), formerly in Windsor Hill, MD, is now in Savannah, where he is an assistant professor of management at Savannah State University. Email: prietol@savannahstate.edu.

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Downtown Statesboro City Campus

On Friday, October 1, during the monthly Downtown Statesboro First Friday celebration, at which merchants open late, local bands play, and street vendors set up, the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority unveiled its new logo signage and cut the ribbon on its East Main Streetscape. The event served as a backdrop for Georgia Southern’s announcement of plans for the university’s City Campus in the old Galleria building in downtown Statesboro.

President Brooks Keel’s vision of promoting economic development took a big step forward with presentation of plans for the new Entrepreneurship Zone, permanent offices of the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), and a satellite operation of the University Store. Eventually, classrooms for late afternoon and evening classes are expected to be added.

Target and American Express Partnerships

The Center for Retail Studies recently announced partnerships with Target and American Express.

Target Corporation has partnered to sponsor a case study competition in COBA’s retail marketing classes this spring. Target executives will introduce the case to the students on-campus, evaluate progress at mid-term, and judge presentations to determine the winning team. Each member of the winning team will receive a $500 scholarship.

The National Retail Federation is providing a grant of $6,000 to fund the students’ travel to New York to participate in the American Express-sponsored National Retail Federation’s Aspire2Retail Intercollegiate Competition against the University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin–Madison, and University of Arizona. American Express, along with Macy’s, Sears, Toys “R” Us, Wet Seal, and Steve Madden, Ltd., will be mentoring students and helping them develop presentations for the competition. The students will tour the American Express offices while in New York in January.

Byington Named Dean at Coastal Carolina

J. Ralph Byington was named dean of the E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration at Coastal Carolina University in July. He had been dean of the School of Business Administration, University of South Carolina-Aiken, since 2003 and had previously spent eight years as associate dean and director of the School of Accountancy, College of Business, Georgia Southern University. Dr. Byington also has experience in state government and the business world. He was director and internal auditor at the University of Southern Mississippi, an investigator on the PEER Committee for the state of Mississippi, and chief fiscal officer for the Mississippi Governor’s Office for Federal Programs.

Dr. Byington has been recognized for academic excellence at three universities, receiving the New Faculty Excellence Award from Texas Tech, the College of Business Administration Professor of the Year at Louisiana Tech, and William A. Freemen Professor of the Year at Georgia Southern.

Fall 2010 COBA Facts & Figures

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Undergraduate BBA Program Enrollment

Graduate Program Enrollment

Seasonings Greetings from the College of Business Administration