Eagle Executive

Spring 2011

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Faculty awards are based upon a variety of characteristics including research activities, teaching excellence, distinguished service, and development potential.

The CIT Award for Excellence in Teaching
Jordan Shropshire

Jordan Shropshire joined the IT faculty in the Fall 2008, when the IT curriculum was undergoing significant change in response to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, ABET. He was responsible for redesigning content for network architecture and network security fundamentals, both upper-level courses required for networking specialization. At the same time, he helped ramp up the curriculum in introductory IT courses to include virtualization technologies.

Dr. Shropshire’s teaching engages students with interesting technologies in the lab, hands-on application and experience, and recent appearances in the Southeastern Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. His students’ ratings include such comments as “good teacher, exciting and challenging”; “lectures that keep you wanting to learn”; and, “would recommend!”

CIT Award for Outstanding Research
Paige Rutner

Paige Rutner clearly demonstrates excellence in research by publications in peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, and presentations.

Dr. Rutner earned her PhD in information systems at Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas in 2007. Since joining the faculty of the Department of Information Systems, she has established a research agenda focusing on staffing, management, and information technology worker performance—relevant issues in the IT field.

Dr. Rutner’s research and knowledge of structural model measurement and analysis has been an asset to the College of IT with significant implications for theory and practice in the discipline. She has published in Database and Management Information Systems Quarterly, top journals in the IS field.

Eagle Executive Society Faculty Award
Don Berecz

After 23 years with the FBI, Don Berecz joined the faculty at Georgia Southern University in 2007. During his career as a special agent, he was assigned to the Seattle, Illinois, and Washington, DC, offices, responsible for criminal investigations, undercover operations, and foreign counter-intelligence.

Mr. Berecz is a licensed polygraph examiner, certified public accountant, and certified financial examiner. He received the Eagle Executive Society Award for his commitment to students in investigation classes, mock grand jury and civil trials, and federal court and prison visits. His IRS Project Advisor allows students to interact with law enforcement in document reviews, financial analysis, forensic interviews, surveillance, undercover operations, and search warrant execution.

The CIT Staff Award for Excellence
Teresa Lee

Teresa Lee performs the functions of an administrative assistant would typically do but she ALWAYS does it with a smile and an uplifting attitude. She goes beyond the call of duty to remove administrative burden from faculty, including travel paperwork, textbook orders, and ADP approval. Mrs. Lee manages documentation of classes crucial for our accreditation, handles faculty searches, and creates master spreadsheets for faculty and administrators.

Mrs. Lee is a worker bee for CIT social events, the BBQ in fall and Low-Country Boil in spring. She and her husband are always there to assist. Mrs. Lee helps us work hard and play hard. She is retiring in June but is coming back in August to help us until we can hire and train a replacement. That is how dedicated she is.

The Tomlinson & Bond Families Staff Award for Excellence
Heather Valentine

Heather joined COBA’s Student Services Center as an academic advisor in 2008 bringing a wealth of experience as a former housing director. Her knowledge of Georgia Southern and experience with a diverse group of students enhance her capabilities as an academic advisor.

Ms. Valentine has volunteered to teach the First Year Experience course and does a great job. She is requested every year to teach the course again because she truly has students’ welfare at heart. She is regularly available to step in and ensure the office is running smoothly when others are absent—always with a great sense of humor.

The CIT Award for Distinguished Service
John O’Malley, Jr.

John O’Malley’s service is extensive. He has served on the IT department’s Tenure and Promotion Committee, Assessment Committee, and as a Conversations with Professors leader; as well as CIT’s Academic Standards Committee, Library Committee, Governance Committee, Faculty Grievance Committee, Faculty Development Committee, Faculty Senate, General Education Council, and IT Advisory Council.

On the university level, Dr. O’Malley has been Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Conference session chair and graduation reader. His external service includes 3E DSI VP web services, 2010 SE INFORMS session chair, and website development and deployment for area organizations as part of IT class projects.

The Sonny Butler CIT Award of Excellence
Ron MacKinnon

Dr. Ron MacKinnon received the Sonny Butler Award of Excellence for his significant contribution to CIT’s program. For many years, he has provided unfailing support to the SAP program. Without him, CIT would have no SAP program.

Dr. MacKinnon was instrumental in developing the the IT College’s shared governance, chairing the college governance committee, and serving as a longtime member of the senate executive committee. He also serves as the chair of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and typically teaches 250 to 350 students per term, keeping the college’s class sizes much larger than they would be without his significant teaching talents.

Ron and Barbara Shiffer Instructor Award
John Kohn

John Kohn has taught for the College of Business for more than 10 years. A business owner in Statesboro since 1983, he acquired the Popeye’s Chicken and Biscuits franchise on Fair Road in 1988 and received his MBA from Georgia Southern in 1993.

Mr. Kohn has taught introduction to business, principles of management, and principles of marketing. He is currently teaching principles of marketing, and loves the course, often bringing in product and packaging samples to illustrate points in his lectures. He is adept at integrating his own personal business experience into classroom discussion—and his students love it. His knowledge, teaching style, and concern for student success make him a popular instructor.

The Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology are grateful to alumni and friends, who, through their contributions, have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in education. Contributors who earmarked COBA, CIT, one of our programs, or scholarship funds

In Memory

Eugene M. Bishop

In March, COBA and Georgia Southern lost a long time friend, dedicated supporter, role model, and leader. Eugene M. Bishop, who died of heart failure, was a key leader in the University’s growth over the past two decades. Gene served on the COBA Business Advisory Council from 1992–2006 and was a frequent campus visitor and speaker. His service to COBA includes Day for Southern and Eagle Executive Society support along with the Eugene M. Bishop Faculty Award for Sustained Excellence, an endowed annually honoring the COBA professor who excels in sustained teaching, research, and service performance.

Gene’s leadership at Georgia Southern is evidenced in his two-term service as chair of Southern Boosters, predecessor of the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation, and presence at almost every home football game. He was presented an Honorary Doctorate of Letters degree at the University’s 2000 graduation ceremonies and was the Southern Conference’s 2003 Distinguished Service awardee for Georgia Southern. Former University President Bruce Grube recognized Gene’s extraordinary support with the President’s Medal in 2006 and the Alumni Association presented him the Friend of the University Award in 1997. He was inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletic Hall of Fame in Fall 2006.

Gene Bishop

While it has been reported his numerous donations to Eagle Athletics make him the single largest contributor to the Georgia Southern Athletics, these pale in comparison to the character, heart, energy, and love of life contributions he made to the people he came in contact with each day. Gene always had time to share a story, joke, or laugh with friends. He had many in COBA and at Georgia Southern.

Gene’s contributions to the greater University are visible in two large campus buildings. The Bishop Field House, constructed in 2006, is the pre-game gathering facility for Georgia Southern boosters, on the upper level, and, on the lower level, teams and referees in the locker rooms. In 2009, he provided the lead gift in construction of the 12,000 square foot Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center on Akins Boulevard, which houses the Offices of Alumni Relations and Development, along with Annual Giving, Advance- ment, and Governmental Relations. On September 10, the Bishop family will join Eagle Nation in recognizing Gene’s legacy at the first home football game against Tusculum. The genuine contributions of this longtime benefactor, like the Erk Russell memories, factor, like the Erk Russell memories, are history to be cherished by all who shared in making them. Thank you, Gene, for being our friend!

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Edellison Bernardes*
Roland M. Berry
Beta Gamma Sigma, Inc.
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William H. Bolen*
Tommy Bond
William J. Bostwick*
Trey Denton III*
J. Nick DeBonis
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Bill C. Howard
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In Memory Eugene M. Bishop

In March, COBA and Georgia Southern lost a long time friend, dedicated supporter, role model, and leader. Eugene M. Bishop, who died of heart failure, was a key leader in the University’s growth over the past two decades. Gene served on the COBA Business Advisory Council from 1992–2006 and was a frequent campus visitor and speaker. His service to COBA includes Day for Southern and Eagle Executive Society support along with the Eugene M. Bishop Faculty Award for Sustained Excellence, an endowed annually honoring the COBA professor who excels in sustained teaching, research, and service performance.

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First Command Financial Services, Bill Strop
Donna K. Fisher
Olivia S. Flanagan*
Leslie B. Fletcher
Ronald Focht
Julie Foley
Peter L. Frailey*
Betty T. Freeman
Butch Freeman
Elizabeth Freeman
Marion Freeman
Georgia Ports Authority, Curtis J. Foltz
Georgia Retail Association Inc.,
John C. Heavener
Our Many Supporters

during 2010 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.

Russell L. Kent*
Vicki King
William Kirby*
John F. Kohn*
KPMG
Michelle K. Kukshel
Tanika Lakes
Betty Lane
J. Mathew Lane*
Jamie Lane*
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Terese Lee
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James Whitworth
Susan R. Williams
Travis Williams
Wen-Ran Zhang
Shawne R. Zuber

*Eagle Executive Society Members
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.

**Cheryl T. Metrejean, Student Trips**
Cheryl Metrejean missed her calling; she should have been a travel agent. She does her research, gets the best deals on air fare and hotels, checks out all the attractions, knows the best times to go, and memorizes the city map. Last March she took her students on another adventure to the United States Supreme Court; this time with front row seats. Students got to see the House of Representatives debating the Health Care Bill and toured the Washington Monument, Spy Museum, and Smithsonian.

**Constantin Ogloblin, Online Graduate Courses**
Costya Ogloblin mastered online teaching, the most difficult delivery method, from the start. He understood the need to communicate efficiently and clearly to students who are not regularly in the classroom to ask questions and get issues clarified. He also understood the need for regular and effective feedback.

While students admit that his classes are tough, they also tell you he is simply the best. He has worked tirelessly to deliver his graduate courses nearly without flaw. The School of Economic Development owes him a great debt for the success of the Master of Science in Applied Economics program.

**Edward H. Sibbald, Team Projects, Internships, and Career Counseling**
Ed Sibbald brings practical experience to the classroom and has become one of COBA’s most popular instructors. He interacts with students through team projects, internships, and career counseling. He uses his contacts to assist students in landing key positions in financial services firms. He has become an invaluable resource to the community through his annual Community Bank Symposium.

**J. Arthur Gowen, Organizing Internships and Interviews for IT Majors**
Art Gowen is probably the only faculty member who knows all 300 majors in his department by name. Why does he know them all? Because he is responsible for coordinating their internships semester after semester. Last year he coordinated and signed off on more than 100 IT internships.

**Luke A. Pitway, Entrepreneur**
Since arriving on our campus from the University of Sheffield in Fall 2008, Luke Pitway has been successful in engaging just about everyone he comes into contact with! His passion for entrepreneurship and for teaching is evident to all who know him. In the classroom, his energy and teaching style resonate with his students. As William A. Freeman chair of free enterprise and director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, he spends a great deal of his time outside the classroom interacting with members of the business community. All would agree that his energy and enthusiasm are infectious.

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

**Accountancy**
Paul LaGrone Scholarship:
Ryan A. Lewis
Samantha F. Williams

The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award:
Ryan A. Lewis

**Computer Science**
Computer Science Student of the Year Award: Daniel Murphy Davis

Upsilon Pi Epsilon:
Jonathan Bowyer
Daniel Corley
Sean Handley
Hanna Knight
RaTesha LeShoure
Matthew Mills
Zachary Reynolds

**Economic Development**
The Wall Street Journal Award:
Stephen Mims

SED Award for Academic Distinction:
Robert Samuel

Omicron Delta Epsilon:
Aaron Anghin
Leslie Edwards
Robert David Hoffmire
Virginia Hunt

Sam Kuehl
Colleen Maddy
Sam Provano
Samuel Smith
Zachary Ryan Taylor
Caleb Tucker

**Finance & Quantitative Analysis**
ACA Financial Guaranty Corporation:
Brittany McCallum

Atlanta Charter Property Casualty Underwriters:
Kyeslene Burgess
Mikal Lewis
Danielle Youngs

Paul Kidd:
Candace Fullmore

**Information Systems**
Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: April N. McKay

Albert J. Roessel Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Dennis J. Luong

IS Alumni Scholarship:
Brendan F. Hegarty

Buddy Lichly Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Andrew M. Weber

Richard A. Mordecai Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: Christopher D. Simmons

Susan Rehstock Williams Business Technology Scholarship:
Cailltin B. Herr

**Information Technology**
Information Technology Award for Excellence, Outstanding IT Student:
William Tyler Beeson

Information Technology Excellence in Service Award:
Jared R. Jones

**Management, Marketing, & Logistics**
Logistics Student of the Year:
John Joseph Cavanaugh

Top Management Student Award:
Jessie Tyler Floyd

Top Marketing Student Award:
Ashley Jannette Warren

Outstanding Marketing Student Award:
Ali Beth Beavers
Megan Brooke
Megan Prescott

Sack Company Marketing Service Award:
Katelyn Ann Dearing

Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing:
Vandance Lebon Cunningham

Mu Kappa Tau Marketing National Honor Society:
Ali B. Beavers
Chelsea L. Friez
Marissa R. Johnson
Nichole D. Wanc

Information Technology Excellence Award for Excellence, Outstanding IT Student:
William Tyler Beeson

Information Technology Award for Excellence, Academic Achievement Award:
Alexander J. Daher

**COBA Golf Tournament**
Friday, May 18, 2012
Forest Heights Country Club

**Homecoming 2011**
Saturday, November 5
Georgia Southern vs. Citadel

**James K. Harris, ACM and Upsilon Pi Epsilon**
Jim Harris’s citation is for many years of serving as mentor and advisor to the student Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) chapter, sponsoring and organizing Georgia Southern’s participation in the ACM International Programming Contest, and founding and mentoring the Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society for computer science and information technology students.

Robert J. Saymonski, AIS, SAP@GSU, and APICS
Robert been instrumental in forming two new student organizations, the student chapter of Association for Information Systems (AIS) and SAP@GSU Student Advantage, and is a driving force for the resurrection of a third student group, Advancing Productivity, Innovation, and Competitive Success (APICS). He has created and implemented a TERP10 review course that has helped increase certification rates and the number of SAP Certified Graduates.
Accounting

Kaye C. Powell (1981), Savannah, is now the principal business banker for Wells Fargo Bank. Her husband is married to William.

Laura Ann James (1982), Summerville, NC, is the EVP/COO of Lincoln Financial Media Co., Atlanta. Email: laj1229@aol.com.

Kim Collins Stewart (1984), Greenville, SC, is the senior portfolio manager for Carolina First Bank. Email: kim.stewart@carolinafirst.com.

John E. Lavender (1986, 1991 MBA), Statesboro, president of Lavender and Associates, has been named to the local board of directors for Sea Island Bank, a division of Synovus Bank.

Thomas M. Shepard (1986), Vidalia, is a CPA with McAlpin, Calhoun, McCluggage & Clark, Vidalia. Email: tmshepard@mcalpinclalhoun.com.

Elizabeth Zimmerman Paulk (1989), Norcross, is a teacher in Norcross. She is married to Randall Paulk, a 1986 Georgia Southern IS graduate. Email: lzpaulk@hotmail.com.

Rodney J. Oglesby (1992), Philadelphia, PA, attorney, is now the executive director of government relations for the School District of Philadelphia. He was an outstanding safety on the football team and still holds the record for pass interceptions. Email: rnjlaw@yahoo.com.


Liza Contreras-Bacon (1994), Richmond Hill, is a CPA/audit manager for Hancock & Askew, CPAs, Savannah. She was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Education Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs.

Leslie Brown Wheeler (1994), CPA, Marietta, is now a stay-at-home-mom after being the corporate tax manager for Earthlink. She is married to Georges Wheeler, and they have three children, Alex (9), Aven (4), and Palmer (2). Email: leslie.wheeler@att.net.

Sarah Bruggemann McDonnell (1996), Sevierville, TN, is married to Brian McDonnell. Their sixth child, Rebecca Elizabeth, was born on January 21, 2010. Email: sarahmcdonald@comcast.net.

Leigh Anne Dean (2001), formerly in Savannah, is now in Rincon, where she is a senior staff accountant for Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Savannah. She is married to Robert Dean.

Chris M. Barr (2004), Richmond Hill, is a loan officer with the Coastal Area District Development Authority, recently graduated from the Georgia Banking School at The University of Georgia, Athens. He is married to Candice Grant-Barr, a 2005 Georgia Southern CFE graduate. Email: c.barr17@gmail.com.

Jason L. Dolly (2004; 2004 MAcc), Dublin, CPA, CIA, is the audit manager for Nichols, Cauley & Assoc., CPAs, Dublin. He is married to Mindy Connell. Email: jasonldolly2004@hotmail.com.

Monika S. Holt (2004; 2005 MAcc), Statesboro, currently employed at Georgia Southern in the Department of Housing, recently married Todric Jones, Statesboro.

Nicole M. Jordan (2004), Hinesville, is now the administrator of the Rayle Development Company. She is married to Jeremy Jordan. Email: nicole.jordan.31313@yahoo.com.

John H. Barnes (2008), Statesboro, is an accountant with Habib, Arogoyi and Wynne, LLP Atlanta. She is engaged to处理 Lynn Sowell, Rocky Ford, current student in Georgia Southern’s College of Education.

John J. “Joey” Batcha, Ill (2008), Macon, is now an accountant with Meadows Wall & Company. He recently completed the CPA exam. Email: jarjbatcha@gmail.com.

S. Ryan Brinson (2008), Dublin, is now a CPA with Thigpen, Jones, Seaton & Company. Email: rbrinson@tjscpa.com.

Economics

Claudine Oroz Hilbert (1992), Jacksonville Beach, FL, is a territory manager, CFA, for International Paper. Email: Claudinehilbert@yahoo.com.

James M. Grams (2004), Brooklet, procurement manager for Betchel Power Corp., Fredericksburg, VA, is married to Relees Maria Castilla, a 2000 graduate of St. Peters College, NJ.

Jennifer Lynn Chase (2010), Statesboro, an employee of the Citizens Bank, is married to Grady K. “Ryan” Reddick, a Georgia Southern political science graduate.

Finance

Ann Adams Cromley (1983), Brooklet, is now the firm administrator for Dabbs, Hickman, Hill Cannon, CPAs. She passed the CPA exam in November 2011. Ann is married to Lee Cromley, and they have three children, Mary Catherine, Mollye, and John.

Gregory Alan Harrison (1983), formerly in Crestview, FL, is now in Thorby, AL, where he is the procurement agent for Boeing. FL. William Beach, FL. He received his MBA from Webster University in 2010. Greg is married to Gwen Smith. Email: gregory.a.harrison2@boeing.com.

Timothy Diass (1985) is now a journalist in Pasig City, Philippines. Email: sayatimothy@hotmail.com.

Darron M. Burnett (1986), Statesboro, executive vice president of Sea Island Bank, Statesboro and Savannah, was presented with the William B. Turnham Humanitarian Award presented by Synovus, the Columbus-based financial services company. He has received awards from Habitat for Humanity as well as a Dee Day Smith Service to Mankind Award. Burnett has been invited to become an entrepreneurial fellow at the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership at Georgia Southern. Email: burnette4@bulloch.net.

C. Sam Williams (1988), Statesboro, is the owner of the Vintage Connection. He is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Bulloch and the Graduate School of Banking at LSU. Sam is married to Dawn Wetherington. Email: sandawn@hncv.com.

Charles Allen “Chuck” Moore (1990), Colhoun, is the HR director-fibers for Shaw Industries, Dalton. He is married to Billie Salbers Puckett. Email: chuck.moore@shawinc.com.

Vicki Foskey Valdez (1992), Dupont, WA, is the branch auditor for Edward Jones, St. Louis, MO. She is married to Thomas S. Valdez, Jr. Email: wikivk905@hotmail.com.

Ken Rabbits (1993), Savannah, has been promoted to executive vice president for Sea Island Bank, where he leads the commercial banking teams.

Heather Dormini Poe (1996), Fitzgerald, is a senior sales rep with Novartis Pharmaceuticals. She is married to Preston Poe. Email: hidope@yahoo.com.

Chelsee Evers Higgins (2000), Dacula, is a finance officer for HADCO, Suwanee. She is married to 1998 Georgia Southern finance graduate, Herman Ray Higgins. Email: ceverst70@gmail.com.

Kevin A. Harrison (2002; 2003 MBA) was recently named president of Citizens Bank of Bulloch County. He has served as executive vice president since 2007. Kevin is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Rotary Club of Statesboro, and Statesboro First United Methodist Church. He is a graduate of the 2009 Leadership Bulloch class, Boys and Girls Club, and local United Way. Kevin married to Mary Helen and they have a son, Davis, and a daughter, Brynn.

Alex P. Wightling (2002), Lemont, PA, is the campus minister at Penn State University for the Reformed University Fellowship. He is married to Becki Ballard, a 2001 Georgia Southern CHDFS graduate, and they have two children, Alexander Whitfield (4), and Miles Manning (1), and a third child expected in August 2011. Email: awightling@ruf.org.

Thomas R. Poole (2004), Statesboro, is a loan review specialist with Steven N. Powell & Company. He is married to Brandi Walker, a 2004 Georgia Southern marketing graduate. Email: tpoole@shpco.net.

Jennifer Price Flowers (2006), formerly in Suwanee, is now in Savannah, where she is a staff insurance agent with State Farm-Dorothy Jannone Agency. She is married to Blake Flowers, a 2005 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: jenniferj.flowers@gmail.com.

Brandon S. Yann (2007), Atlanta, is a business analyst with IPC Global. Email: bsyann@live.com.

Jessica L. Averitt (2009), Statesboro, who is currently employed as an insurance agent specializing in personal lines insurance with Blount, Burke, Wimberly and Hendricks Insurers, recently married Thomas E. Rushing, IV, a 2010 Georgia Southern management graduate.

Anna Frances Powers (2009), formerly in Barnesville, is now in Denver, CO, where she is the sales coordinator for Unum, Greenwood Village, CO.

General Business

John A. Dotson (1969), Dawsonville, after 32 years with insurance companies, took early retirement and operates a retail gift shop and online store—www.unclejohnstatic.com. He is married to Georgia Southern and Georgia State alumna Laura Dianne Mesling. Email: unclejohnstatic@yahoo.com.

Stephen E. Karstensen (1971), formerly in Europe, is now in Fort Belvoir, VA, where he is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Rotary Club of Statesboro, and Statesboro First United Methodist Church. He is a graduate of the 2009 Leadership Bulloch class, Boys and Girls Club, and local United Way. He is married to Mary Helen and they have a son, Davis, and a daughter, Brynn.

Alex P. Wightling (2002), Lemont, PA, is the campus minister at Penn State University for the Reformed University Fellowship. He is married to Becki Ballard, a 2001 Georgia Southern CHDFS graduate, and they have two children, Alexander Whitfield (4), and Miles Manning (1), and a third child expected in August 2011. Email: awightling@ruf.org.

Thomas R. Poole (2004), Statesboro, is a loan review specialist with Steven N. Powell & Company. He is married to Brandi Walker, a 2004 Georgia Southern marketing graduate. Email: tpoole@shpco.net.

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Stephen E. Karstensen (1971), formerly in Europe, is now in Fort Belvoir, VA, where he
has officially retired as a colonel in the army and civilian employee of the U. S. government. Email: stephen.e.karstensen@us.army.mil.

Kirby T. Waters (1974), Statesboro, has retired from DFS after many years of dedicated service. He is married to Becky Helmut.

Ronald T. Gay (1975), formerly in Jesus, is now in Ludowici, where he is an insurance agent with Liberty National Insurance, Waycross. He is married to Lora Causey. Email: rtg755@hotmail.com.

Deborah P. Champion (1981), Statesboro, is the program coordinator of the Center for OnLine Learning at Georgia Southern. She received her MPA in public administration in 1995. Email: dchampion@georgiasouthern.edu.

Homer G. “Chip” McBrayer (1989), Ft. Lauderdale, FL, is a RAC for the U.S. gov’t/DOJ/DEA, Freeport, Bahamas Resident Office, Miami Field Division. He is married to Shannon Gibson. Email: dawggbyte@aol.com.

Darrell Reid Hendrix (1990), formerly in Anderson, SC, is in Greenville, SC, where he is the senior vice president for sales for Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation. Darrell is an outstanding defensive player on the football team. His wife is Sandra Aki, a UGA graduate. Email: darrell.hendrix@milwaukeeetool.com.

Shannon Taylor Iwanski (1994; 1999 MBA), Milwaukee Tool Corporation. Darrell Reid Hendrix (1990), formerly in Milwaukee Tool Corporation. Darrell is an outstanding defensive player on the football team. His wife is Sandra Aki, a UGA graduate. Email: darrell.hendrix@milwaukeeetool.com.

Karita L. Washington (2004), Macon, is an area operations officer for BB&T, Macon, is engaged to Quincy C. Robinson, a Georgia Southern general studies graduate.

Information Technology

Wesley Jerrell (2009), Aiken, SC, is the network/server administrator for Security Federal Bank, Aiken, SC. Email: wesjerrell@gmail.com.

Stephen Porter (2009), Sylacauga, is the assistant director of technology for the Worth County Board of Education. He is married to Jessica Ellis, who has her associate degree in early childhood education from Ogeechee Technical College.

Logistics

Eric H. Engel (2009), Broken Arrow, OK, is the materials manager for Hilti, Inc. He is married to Carter Sample, a 2009 Georgia Southern nursing school graduate. Email: eric.engel@hilti.com.

Jon L. Simpson (2008), formerly in Kennesaw, is now in Macon, where he is a third-year law student at Mercer Law and also a law clerk in the Judge Advocate’s office, Warner Robins. Email: jonsimpson1@gmail.com.

Caitlin D. Bowen (2010), formerly in Folkston, is currently in Statesboro. On January 1, 2011, she and David J. Unkles, a current student in the College of Technology, were married.

Management

William C. “Bill” Brown (1970), formerly in Gayton, is now in Statesboro, where he has retired after 14 years with T. J. Maxx and a total of forty years in retail management. His wife is Nancy Breazel. Bill built a house in Statesboro in November 2010 and a læring Office. Email: wc.brown47@yahoo.com.

Charles A. Lasted (1982), formerly in Roswell, is now in Statesboro, where he is the head baseball coach for East Georgia College, Swainsboro. He was one of our baseball players. He is married to Alison Defany, a 1982 Georgia Southern education graduate.

Logistics

Rennie A. Paulk (1986), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Waycross. He is married to Lora Causey. Email: renniealpaulk1@yahoo.com.

Eddie L. Williams, Jr. (2005), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Waycross, where he is in his first year of pharmacy school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Swannanoa. He is married to Shandra Gaffney, a 2006 Georgia Southern management graduate. Email: eddie@ulyssesrealtygroup.com.

Shelly E. Geiger (2007), Brunswick, is a library media specialist for the Glynn County BOE. She is married to London Nelson, a 2007 Georgia Southern COR graduate. Email: shelly.geiger@glynn.k12.ga.us.

Robert E. “Bobby” Schon, Jr. (2007), Savannah, is the business development officer for the Coastal Center for Development Services, a division of Quantum, Inc. He is married to Elizabeth Solomon, a 2008 Georgia Southern graduate with an MBA in graphic design. Email: robertesch@charter.com.

Edward “J. J.” Trizzino (2007, 2009 MBA), Atlanta, is an associate advisory consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He is married to Holly Bellamy, a Georgia Southern international studies graduate. Email: ehtizino@gmail.com.

Ashley McDonald Paulk (2008), formerly in Volkston, is now in Woodbine, where she is the budget analyst for FLET, Brunswick. She is married to Justin Paulk. Email: ashleybpm01@hotmail.com.

Bradley A. Tanner (2008), Dublin, is the electric hydraulic servo valve team leader for Parker Aerospace. His wife is April Lynn. Email: btanner@parker.com.

Thomas E. Rushing, IV (2010), Statesboro, recently married Jessica L. Averitt, a 2009 Georgia Southern finance graduate.

Marketing

Garrett Nevil (1966), Statesboro, a retired banker, is the chair of the Bullock County Commissioners. He is married to Emily Brannen. Email: enevil@enias.net.

Phillip R. Mays (1971), Lakeland, FL, is president/broker of the Ulysses Realty Group, Inc. His wife is Sandra. Email: phill@ulyssesrealtor.com.

Renee Lynn Burgess (1992), Arlington, VA, is a hairdresser/education director for Eclips, Inc. She is married to Gerard Kierans. Email: renieemburgess@comcast.net.

Lori S. Durden (1992; 1998 MBA), Statesboro, has been named vice president for Economic Development at Ogeechee Technical. She had been the Georgia Southern Small Business Development Center for a number of years. In 2009, Lori was named in both the Savannah Business Report & Journal’s and the Georgia Southern Small Business Development Center’s 2009 Small Business Development Center’s small business Person of the Year. Email: lori@ulyssesrealtygroup.com.

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Colquitt and Moultrie YMCA. Leigh, her member of the Moultrie Junior Woman’s Club, and on the boards of United Way of Leadershi...
Special Providence: Marcia Jones

Marcia Noreen White Jones passed away on March 20. Courageous, God-fearing, loving, and strong—an educator and leader—she was born in Castries, West Indies. After the untimely death of her mother, Phyllis White, Marcia was adopted, raised, and educated by her uncle and aunt, Conroy and Lillian Joyce Maynard White.

A graduate of the University of West Indies in Cave Hill, Barbados, Marcia received her master and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, where she met and married her husband, Luther Jones.

In her professional career, she rose through the ranks to professor in the School of Economic Development and associate vice president for compliance at Georgia Southern, where she mentored many during her journey. Later in her career, Marcia moved to Watkinsville joining The University of Georgia as an associate in the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development. She rose through the ranks to professor in the School of Agribusiness and Economic Development division in the university’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Blessed with the gift of hospitality and a special love for children, Marcia accepted Christ in her life at an early age and served her Lord as a member of the Statesboro New Covenant Church and the Church of Nations, Athens. She served on a number of local and regional advisory boards including Sexual Assault, New Hope Ministries, and Brothers Behind Bars outreach programs.

Marcia is survived by her husband of 25 years, Luther; two sons, Jeremy and Ian; three sisters, Adriana White, Sandra John, and Carol Marshall; of St. Lucia and Barbados, West Indies; and two brothers, Earl and Ulric White, of Brooklyn, NY, and St. Lucia, West Indies, respectively.

Marcia wrote shortly before her death from cancer that she was content her earthly life was worthwhile, “knowing I made someone smile, lent a helping hand, or lifted someone’s spirit.” For years, that was exactly what she did at Georgia Southern, creating a debt of gratitude that many of us may never repay. Thank you Marcia, for passing our way.◆

Freeman Memorial Lecture

The William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture Series featured J. T. Marburger (MGT, 1984), president of Insignia Promotions, a member of the Proforma Network. In his career, he has owned several businesses in the promotional products industry including Incentive Marketing, which he took from start-up to sales of $7.8 million, then, in a merger with CorpLogoWare, to $45 million in sales.

Insignia Promotions is a privately held company that ranks in the top 50 within the promotional products industry. Insignia’s primary focus is upon Fortune 500 companies and has clients such as The Coca-Cola Company, Hershey’s, Lenovo, Atlanta Braves, and Anheuser-Busch. Additionally, the company focuses upon sports license agreements with these companies and provides merchandise to promote NCAA BCS Bowl Series, NCAA Final Four, Super Bowl, Olympics, FIFA World Cup, Super Bowl, NBA All Star and Finals and other key sporting events around the world.

J. T., wife, Gerilyn, and children, Madeline and Joey, live in Roswell. The late Mr. Freeman, lecture series benefactor, was a 1957 alumnus.◆

Dust, Spiders, and Thieves, Oh My!

Laurie G. Dyke, CPA, CFF, CFE, CFC, received her accounting degree from the University of California at Berkley and followed a career with Ernst & Young for almost ten years, became a financial executive, and, in 2002, started her own business, the Investigative Accounting Group.

In the 8th annual Forensic Accounting Lecture Series, her presentation, “Dust, Spiders, and Thieves, Oh My,” outlined forensic accounting benefits, including variety of assignment, “order out of chaos,” and “A-ha!” moments in her work. She identified hectic schedules, staffing, lying and misrepresentation by investigative sub-jects, and unending attention to detail as challenges.

In case review, Dyke cited purposely commingled divorce funds, a common thief HR manager, a civic leader scam comingled divorce funds, a common thief HR manager, a civic leader scam, self-dealing in corporate boardrooms, and false bank statements.

Forensic accounting, currently one of the hottest career paths in business, integrates accounting, auditing, and investigation. An undergraduate may receive a forensic concentration by taking fraudulent financial reporting, fundamentals of computer forensics, fraud and society, expert witnessing, and the forensic accounting capstone courses. The above five undergraduate courses are a prerequisite to the five-course forensic concentration in the MAcc program.◆

New BBRED Director

The Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) at Georgia Southern is pleased to announce Dominique Halaby has been appointed BBRED director. Halaby comes to Georgia Southern from the Center for Community and Business Research at the University of Texas–San Antonio’s Institute for Economic Development, where he supervised a team of skilled economists, researchers, faculty, and graduate students. The center conducted projects ranging from assisting local organizations in strategic planning to multi-state regional analyses. Specific projects include demonstrating how small businesses economically impacted the state of Texas economy; conducting assessments for a number of Texas’s nonprofit entities; and preparing a market value analysis and cluster study for the City Planning Department of San Antonio.

In the Rio Grande Regional Center’s workforce and economic development project, Halaby secured more than $28 million in funding, one of the largest federal training grants in South Texas; was named one of the national finalists for U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Best Practices in 2003 and 2006; and, received the Texas Workforce Commission’s 2004 Transitional Workforce Award. Dominique obtained a DPA from Nova Southeastern University, MBA from University of Texas–Pan-American, and a BA in sociology from the University of Texas. He is a member of the Southwestern Economics Association, the Association for Research on Non-profit Organizations, and Voluntary Action. He, his wife, and four children are looking forward to their move to Statesboro and to being nearer family in Florida.◆

COBA’s Spring 2011 Graduation Trends

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