of Excellence

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

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.

CIT Award for Outstanding Research
Paige Rutner

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 Adrian 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 with ALL TIME high quality. She goes beyond the call of duty to remove administrative burden from faculty and administrators.

Mrs. Lee manages documentation of classes crucial for our accreditation, handles faculty searches, and creates master spreadsheets for faculty and administrators.


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 enhances her capabilities as an academic advisor.

Ms. Valentine has volunteered to teach the First Year Experience course and does a great job. She is expected to always lead the way in all academic discussion 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 R. 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 NSF VP web services, 2010 SE INFORMS session chair, and website development and deployment for area organizations as part of IT class projects.

John MacKinnon received the Sonny Butler Award of Excellence for his significant contribution to CIT’s progress. 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.

The Sonny Butler CIT Award of Excellence
Ron MacKinnon

Ron and Barbara Shiffler 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 products 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

Charles C. Cox III*  
Susan W. Cox  
Brian M. Creamer  
Crider Poultry Inc., W. A. Crider, Jr.  
Dabbs Hickman Hill & Cannon CPA  
Edwin Hill and Billy Hickman*  
R. Bruce Dannely*  
Eynor Davis*  
Gary M. Davis  
James E. Davis, Jr.*  
DGJ Development Company Inc., Daniel C. Johnston*  

Eagle Home Rental LLP, C. William McGahee*  
Jimmie L. Earle  
East Georgia Regional Medical Center  
Jacqueline K. Eastman*  
Kevin L. Eastman*  
Rachael Edwards  
Fathy Elaissi  
Elliott Davis LLC, William Woodward  
Nancy Elrod*  
ExxonMobil Foundation, Tom Tharpe  
Farmers & Merchants Bank of Statesboro, C. Ricky Nessmith  

Godfrey A. Gibbison  
Gifford Hillegas & Ingwersen LLP, John D. Shutley  
Cynthia Glover  
George M. Godfrey  
Carl Gooding*  
Jenna Green  
Sara Jeanette Grimes*  
Kathleen H. Gruben  
H. A. Sack Company, Paul Roessel  
Habif Argoel & Wynne LLP, Alex Knight  
Jeanette Hadden  
Lynda S. Hamilton  
Karen Hamilton  
Hancock Askew & Co. LLP, Mike McCartney  
Mark D. Hanna*  
Horace W. Harrell, Jr.*  
Larry F. Harrison*  
Consuelo Hart*  
Charles Harter*  
Jackie W. Harlsey*  
John J. Haltem  
Peter Hayes*  
Mary F. Hesztleine*  
William D. Head*  
Tracyann Henry  
Heritage Capital Group Inc., C. Don Wiggins  
Nancy Herrig  
Susan S. Herrig*  
William T. Herrig*  
Scott Hilisen  
James Earl Hilson  
Jeremy R. Hinton*  
Melissa Holland*  
Holland, Henry & Bromley LLP, J. Richard Henry, Jr  
The Home Depot PAC  
Hood Rentals, James M. Hood*  
Howard Lumber & Hardware Co., Bill C. Howard  
Donald D. Howard*  
Walter Huggins*  
Evan Huggins*  
IKON Office Solutions, Inc., Anna Beecher  
Feruzan Iran*  
Robert Jackson  
Eleanor James  
Matthew H. Janofsky*  
John Jennings*  
John E. and Alice Price Foundation Inc., Russell & Alice Pidddy  
Michael K. Johnson*  
Jones & Boyd Insurance Agency, Edwin O. Boyd  
W. Kelly Jones  
Thomas W. Jones*  
Victoria Jones*  
JWH Service Partners Inc., Jackie W. Harlsey  
Ginger Karr  
Kauffman Tire, Inc.*  
Richard E. Aldridge*  
Julia Ann Kelly*  
Sharon Kelly*  

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 support along with the Eugene M. Bishop Faculty Award for Sustained Excellence, an endowment 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.

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 Akin’s 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, are history to be cherished by all who shared in making them. Thank you, Gene, for being our friend!

Frances S. Deal*  
James W. Deal  
Julian I. Deal*  
J. Nick DeBonis  
W. Frank Denmark  
Trey Denton III*  
Diesel Products & Components Inc., Stephen E. Rary  
J. Franklin Dismuke*  
Roger M. Doty*  
Draffin & Tucker LLP, Jim Creamer  
Lori S. Durden*  
Margaret S. Dyer  
Laurie Dyke  

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

COBA  
Trig Addison*  
Linda Aguilar Espinal*  
Paula L. Alexander  
Yaseen Ahiq-Yaseen  
William Amsponsh*  
Mark H. Anderson*  
Stewart M. Applebaum  
Atlanta Chapter of the CPCU Society, Megan Dooley  
Atlanta Claims Association, Vanessa Hall  
Atlanta Gas & Light Matching Gifts, Helen Stembridge  
Frances Bagley*  
Sahar Bahmany  
Bank of America Matching Gifts  
Rhonda Banks*  
John Barkoulas  
Perry C. Barnett*  
Rick Barr*  
Matthew S. Bean*  
Richard A. Bean*  
Becker Professional Education  
Charles A. Beckum  
Paul T. Bennett  
Donald Berces*  
Ednilson Bernardes*  
Roland M. Berry  
Beta Gamma Sigma, Inc.  
Gene Bishop (deceased)  
Gary A. Blount*  
William H. Boelen*  
Tommy Bond*  
William J. Bostwick*  
Frances S. Deal  
Bryan R. Burke  
Gerard Burke  
John W. Burton*  
Kenneth C. Butler*  
Michael Callaghan*  
Constance R. Campbell*  
Ronald L. Cannon*  
Boris A. Carl  
Brenda S. Carter*  
Harry S. Carter*  
Nancy Carter  
Rosemary Carter*  
Thomas Case*  
C.H. Robinson Company  
Chatham Foundation, William Spragge III  
Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP  
Claude Howard Lumber Company Inc., C. Howard Howard  
James T. Cee*  
C. Doug Collins III*  
Collins Insurance Specialists Inc., Paul Collins  
Leslie Conaway  
Lisa Conti-Bacon*  

Horace W. Harrell, Jr.*  
Larry F. Harrison*  
Consuelo Hart*  
Charles Harter*  
Jackie W. Harlsey*  
John J. Haltem  
Peter Hayes*  
Mary F. Hesztleine*  
William D. Head*  
Tracyann Henry  
Heritage Capital Group Inc., C. Don Wiggins  
Nancy Herrig  
Susan S. Herrig*  
William T. Herrig*  
Scott Hilisen  
James Earl Hilson  
Jeremy R. Hinton*  
Melissa Holland*  
Holland, Henry & Bromley LLP, J. Richard Henry, Jr  
The Home Depot PAC  
Hood Rentals, James M. Hood*  
Howard Lumber & Hardware Co., Bill C. Howard  
Donald D. Howard*  
Walter Huggins*  
Evan Huggins*  
IKON Office Solutions, Inc., Anna Beecher  
Feruzan Iran*  
Robert Jackson  
Eleanor James  
Matthew H. Janofsky*  
John Jennings*  
John E. and Alice Price Foundation Inc., Russell & Alice Pidddy  
Michael K. Johnson*  
Jones & Boyd Insurance Agency, Edwin O. Boyd  
W. Kelly Jones  
Thomas W. Jones*  
Victoria Jones*  
JWH Service Partners Inc., Jackie W. Harlsey  
Ginger Karr  
Kauffman Tire, Inc.*  
Richard E. Aldridge*  
Julia Ann Kelly*  
Sharon Kelly*  

Thank You to...
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*  
Schubert Lane  
Angela R. Lang  
John H. Lawrence  
John Leaptrtot, Jr.*  
Ronald L. and Theresa Lepionka  
Angela J. Leverett  
Buddy Lighty*  
Mary Ligon  
Jun Liu  
M. Jill Lockwood  
Lord Eye Center, Lurue Lord*  
Misty Loughry  
Shecara C. Lovett  
Sanford Loydt  
Carolyn Luckadoo  
David M. Luckie*  
Marjorie Maguire-Krupp  
Chandan Maitrani*  
Marjorie Maguire-Krupp  
Chandan Maitrani*  
Manack Signature Properties,  
Todd Manack*  
J. T. Marburger  
Mauldin & Jenkins, Greg Morgan  
Greg McAlister  
William W. McCartney*  
Ken McCormle  
J. Michael McDonald*  
Samuel A. McDeffle  
Robert L. McGregor*  
Brittany McKay  
McNair McLemore Middlebrooks & Co. LLP  
William S. McLean II*  
Beverly W. McLendon  
McNair McLemore Middlebrooks & Co. LLP  
Judith P. McCuiegal  
Robert Melton*  
Cheryl T. Metrejean  
Eddie Metrejean  
Ashley Meyer  
Michael C. Baker, CPA  
Shannon K. Middleton  
Bobby L. Mikel  
Susan Miller  
Michael E. Mixon  
Caydi Moon  
J. Lowell Mooney*  
H. Phillip Moore, Jr.  
Moore Stephens Tiller LLC,  
Charles Martin  
Toby Moreau  
D. Greg Morgan*  
Jeffrey W. Morris  
Janet Moss  
Steven E. Moss  
Cynthia Munley  
Linda Mullen  
Wayne Murphy  
Vivian Myers  
Ed Nelson  
NeSmith Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac-GMC Inc.,  
Martin NeSmith  
Martin W. NeSmith  
Clinton R. Nessmith  
Nichols Cauley & Associates,  
Timothy R. Veal  
John F. Nolen, Jr.  
William Norton  
NRF Foundation, Evelyn Rose  
Patrick M. O'Connell  
G. Michael Odom, Jr.*  
Kenny Stone  
Constantin Ogiobin  
Olin Corporation Charitable Trust,  
J. Earl Hilson  
Abbie Gail Parham  
Leslie K. Parker  
Donald O. Patterson  
Perimeter Center Partners,  
James L. Campbell  
W. Carlos Phillips  
Daren B. Petitch  
Richard G. Pitzman  
Luke Pittaway*  
James Pollak  
Porter Keadle Moore LLP,  
H. Philip Moore, Jr.  
Steve H. Powell & Company  
Barbara A. Price*  
Carolyn Price  
PwC, Charlotte NC, Alex Gambill  
Propeller Club of the United States,  
Anna H. Amsdorff  
Radio Jones, LLC*  
Dennis F. Jones*  
Cindy Randall  
Stephen E. Rany*  
Real Estate Asset Counseling, J. Tom Cote*  
Gail U. Reed  
Michael Reksula  
RGA Financial Group, Patrick S. Rising*  
Dan K. Ricks*  
Patrick S. Rising*  
Jason Roberts*  
Robinson, Grimes & Company PC  
Adam Rodes  
RRW P.C., William R. Hickman, Jr.  
David A. Ricks*  
Rushing Insurance, Jeannie Gay  
Christopher B. Rutherford  
Michael R. Sanders*  
Brandon Saunders*  
Savannah Chapter GA Society CPAs,  
Lisa Coni-Bacon  
Savannah Chapter Society for Human  
Resource Mgt, Sharon Floyd  
Savannah Traffic Club Inc.,  
Bridget Caldwell  
SE Georgia Chapter of GSCPA  
C. David Shepherd  
Thomas Sherouse*  
Barbara Shiffler*  
Ronald E. Shiffler*  
Ralph S. Sikes, Jr.*  
Jacob V. Simons  
Stephanie Sipe  
The Sir Shop of Dublin, W. Mike Cummings  
Michael W. Skinner*  
Smith & Howard P.C., John W. Lucht  
Smith-Healy Farms Inc.,  
William H. Smith III  
Samantha Smith  
Carole J. Smith*  
L. Dwight Sneathen, Jr.*  
Brian K. Snell*  
South Atlantic & Caribbean Ports Association,  
Philip S. Jones  
South Banking Company, Paul T. Bennett*  
Southeastern Hospitality Services Inc.,  
Doug Lambert*  
Lisa Butler*  
Jean Soplositra*  
Charlene Stewart*  
Lewis M. Stewart*  
Robert H. Stoddard*  
William N. Strawn, Jr.*  
Gloria J. Stuart  
Stubbs Oil Company, Inc., Jody Stubbs*  
J. Perry Sumner, Jr.*  
Cathy Owens Swift*  
Target, Jane Windmeier  
Thomas Tharpe*  
Jane Tharpe  
Thigpen Jones Seaton & Co., Robert Thigpen*  
Rodney Thomas  
Erik E. Thompson  
Thomas Thompson*  
Valerie A. Thompson*  
Toys ‘R’ Us, Jane Baczynski  
Corner Train, Jr.  
Kris Trainor*  
F. Ward Trulock*  
Scott Tuten*  
Verizon Foundation  
Waco Fire & Casualty Insurance,  
William T. Herrin  
Dallas Wallace  
Walmart, Mary Burns  
Walmart Distribution Center,  
Barry Westbrooks & Bill Thompson  
Xinfang Wang  
Mark A. Weeks  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
William H. Wells*  
Yuan Wen  
Joy West*  
Carolyn J. White  
Evelyn Rose  
Savannah Traffic Club Inc.,  
G. Michael Odom, Jr.*  
Patrick M. O’Connell  
Jason Roberts*  
Patrick S. Rising*  
Dan K. Ricks*  
RGA Financial Group, Patrick S. Rising*  
Daren B. Petitch  
Benjamin Snooks  
Chuck Stallworth  
John Swett  
Manoucheri Tabatabaei  
Vmware, Dave Nelson  
James Whitworth  
Susan R. Williams  
Travis Williams  
Wen-Ran Zhang  
Shawne R. Zuber  

William R. Woolford*  
Wright & Edwards P.C., Rachel Edwards  
Bill Z. Yang  
Thomas O. Yarbrough*  
Karl Van Zeigler*  
Rongrong Zhang  
Xiaolong Zhang  

CIT  
Cheryl Aasheim  
Richard E. Aldredge  
Charles L. Arvin  
Maria Aviles  
Brenda T. Aytes  
Back Forty Investments Inc., Buddy Lighty  
Faye B. Bacon  
Rachel S. Beckworth  
James Bradford  
Antonette Carr  
Thomas Case  
Kelley G. Chester  
Christopher B. Cobb  
Robert P. Cook  
DCJ Development Co. Inc., Daniel C. Johnston  
John N. Dyer  
Kevin Elder  
Carol Fanning  
Jennifer Fields  
Adrian Gardiner  
J. Arthur Gowan  
Adriana Greca  
H.A. Sack Co., Inc., Paul Roscel  
Hy-Joo Han  
James K. Harris  
Harris Computer Systems, James L. Campbell  
Malcolm Howard  
Vladan Jovanovic  
Christopher Kadlec  
Valerie Kasay  
Hsiang-Jui Kung  
Samantha G. Lee  
Terese Lee  
Lixin Li  
Youming Li  
Buddy Lighty  
J. Howard Luna  
Ron J. MacKinnon  
Richard Mordecai  
John O’Malley  
Donna Orme  
Paige Rutner  
Stephen M. Rutner  
Safe Systems Inc., Danny C. Johnston  
Jordan Shropshire  
Jeramy Smith  
Benjamin Snooks  
Chuck Stallworth  
John Swett  
Manoucher Tabatabaei  
Vmware, Dave Nelson  
James Whitworth  
Susan R. Williams  
Travis Williams  
Wen-Ran Zhang  
Shawne R. Zuber  

*Eagle Executive Society Members

Our Many Supporters
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. Metreauen, Student Trips
Cheryl Metreauen missed her calling; she should have been a travel agent. She does her research, gets the best deals on airfare 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 Ogoblin, Online Graduate Courses
Costya Ogoblin 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.

Luke A. Pittaway, Entrepreneur
Since arriving on our campus from the University of Sheffield in Fall 2008, Luke Pittaway 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.

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 Gowan, Organizing Internships and Interviews for IT Majors
Art Gowan 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.

Honors Day

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

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

Computer Science
Paul LaGrone Scholarship:
Ryan A. Lewis
Samantha F. Williams

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

SED Award for Academic Distinction:
Robert Samuel

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

Economic Development
The Wall Street Journal Award:
Stephen Mimbs

SED Award for Academic Distinction:
Robert Samuel

Information Systems
Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: April N. McKay
Albert J. Roesel 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:
Jesse Tyler Floyd
Top Marketing Student Award:
Ashley Jeanette 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. Frier
Marissa R. Johnson
Nichole D. Wanco

Homecoming 2011
Saturday, November 5
Georgia Southern vs. Citadel

COBA Golf Tournament
Friday, May 18, 2012
Forest Heights Country Club
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 SVP/CFO of Lincoln Financial Media Co., Atlanta. Email: laj12296@aol.com.

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

Laura Ann James (1982), Summerfield, NC, is the SVP/CFO of Lincoln Financial Media Co., Atlanta. Email: laj12296@aol.com.

C. Sam Williams (1988), Statesboro, is the owner of the Vintage Collection. He is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Bulloch and the Graduate School of Banking at LSU. Sam is married to Dawn Wetherington. Email: sandawn1@hcv.com.

Jennifer Price Flowers (2006), formerly in Suwanee, is now in Savannah, where she is a staff insurance agent with State Farm—Commercial Insurance. Email: jennifer.j.flowers@gmail.com.

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

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

Economics

Claudine Oroz-Hibert (1992), Jacksonville Beach, FL, is a territory manager, CFA, for International Paper. Email: Claudineo@ibert@yahoo.com.

Heather Dorminn Poe (1996), Fitzgerald, GA, is a senior sales rep with Novartis Pharmaceuticals. She is married to Preston Poe. Email: hipo@ymail.com.

Chelse Everts Higgins (2000), Dacula, is a finance officer for HADCO, Suwanee. She is married to 1998 Georgia Southern finance graduate Herman Ray Higgins. Email: ceh17@hotmai.com.

General Business

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

Stephen E. Karstensen (1971), formerly in Europe, is now in Fort Belvoir, VA, where he is currently employed as an insurance agent specializing in personal lines insurance with Blount, Burke, Wimbler and Hendriks Insurers, recently married Thomas E. Rushing, IV, a 2010 Georgia Southern management graduate.

Alumniville
has officially retired as a colonel in the army and civilian employee of the U. S. government. Email: stephen.e.karsten@us.army.mil.

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

Ronald T. Gay (1975), formerly in Jesup, is now in Ludowici, where he is an insurance agent with Liberty National Insurance, Waycross. He is married to Lora Causey. Email: rtg75@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: dhchampion@georgia southern.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: dawggibie@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 was an outstanding defensive player on the football team. His wife is Sandra Aki, a UGA graduate. Email: darrell.hendrix@milautee.com.

Shannon Taylor Iwanski (1994, 1999 MBA), Richmond Hill, the director, initial phase procurement at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Savannah, is no longer married to Joe Iwanski. Email: shannon.iwanski@gulfstream.com.

Information Systems

Randall Lee Paulk (1986), Norcross, is the director of sales engineering at MobileIron. He is married to Elizabeth Zimmerman, a 1989 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

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), Sylvester, 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 engaged to Quincy C. Robinson, a Georgia Southern general studies graduate.

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. Unleski, a current student in the College of Technology, were married.

Management

William C. “Bill” Brown (1970), formerly in Guyton, 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 is leasing it. Email: wcbrown47@yahoo.com.

Charles A. Lusted (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 Delany, a 1982 Georgia Southern education graduate.

Ronnie A. Paulk (1986), Dalton, AL, is the HR manager for the McLane Company. His wife is Carlia. Email: ronpaulk1@yahoo.com.

Amy Balzarano (1988) has been hired by Stanford-based Operations, Inc., a small business: human resources firm, as a consultant, responsible for administration, policy and procedure development, and payroll support for clients. As a human resources generalist with 10 years of experience, her previous roles have been with insurance, reinsurance, and staffing.

Cal. Sean A. Gaensly (1991), Springfield, VA, is currently at the Senior Service College, Washington, DC. He was promoted to full colonel in December 2010. Sean will command the 108th ADA Poultry Brigade at Ft. Bragg, NC, in Summer 2011. His wife is Vera, and they have two children, a daughter, Torianna, who is a senior in high school, and a son, Justin, who is in 8th Grade. Sean was an All-American offensive lineman while at Southern. Email: sean.gaensly@us.army.mil.

Apil Gbeseeing McAndrews (1992), formerly in Roswell, is now in Friendswood, TX. She is married to Craig McAndrews. Email: mcandrews4@gmail.com.

Chris G. Shepherd (1995), Goshen, KY, is the director of strategic planning for American Commercial Lines, Jeffersonville, IN. He is married to Leslie Watkins, a 1996 Georgia Southern ‘FCS. Email: chris.shepherd@acdlines.com.

Chris B. Wells (1995), Brunswick, is an engineering rep for Georgia Power Company. Email: cbwells@southernco.com.

Kelly Stettner Wolcott (1997), formerly in Alpharetta, is now in Roswell, where she is the owner of HWK Rahba. She is married to Mark Stettner, a Georgia Southern alumnus, and they buy and rehabilitate houses. Email: kswolcott@bellsouth.net.

Molly C. Rakestraw (2002), Reston, VA, director of HR for Oberthur Technologies, Chantilly, VA, is engaged to Bora Bakal, a University of Maryland graduate. They plan to wed on Jekyll Island. Email: mollyrakestraw@hotmail.com.

Molly C. Rakestraw (2002), Reston, VA, director of HR for Oberthur Technologies, Chantilly, VA, is engaged to Bora Bakal, a University of Maryland graduate. They plan to wed on Jekyll Island. Email: mollyrakestraw@hotmail.com.

Bryan K. Sadow (2002), Cantonsville, MD, received his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2009. He is in practice with Tydings and Rosenberg, LLP, Baltimore, MD. His wife is Laura. Email: ssztokn@gmail.com.

Ben D. Vandegriff (2002), formerly in Kathleen, is now in Alanta, where he is a contract specialist with Acoustic Floors, Warner Robbins. He is married to Joyce Marie Malone. Email: bv4200@gmail.com.

Brian J. Still (2005), Charleston, is a PCT for the Medical College of South Carolina. He has completed graduate courses at the College of Charleston and has applied to the medical school to pursue trauma surgery. Brian was the Medical College’s Employee of the Month for June 2010. He is married to Michelle Dupuy. Email: stillbj@muisc.edu.

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

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

Robert E. “Bobby” Schorr, 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: roberteschorr@gmail.com.

Edward “Eddie” 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: etrizzino@gmail.com.

Ashley McDonald Paulk (2008), formerly in Folkston, is now in Woodbine, where she is the budget analyst for FLET. Brunswick. She is married to Justin Paulk. Email: ashleybm01@hotmail.com.

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

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

Marketing

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

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

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

Lori S. Durden (1992; 1998 MBA), Statesboro, has been named vice president for Economic Development at Ogeechee Technical. She had been the director of 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
Leigh Wallace (1992), Moultrie, has been appointed vice president for student affairs at Moultrie Technical College, one of the fastest growing technical colleges in the rural part of the state. In her new role, Leigh is charged with oversight of admissions, registration, financial aid, career services, and student organizations, as well as a staff of 25 across Colquitt, Tift, Turner, and Worth counties. Leigh holds a master in adult education from The University of Georgia. She is a Kappa Delta alumna, 2000 Leadership Colquitt graduate, an associate member of the Moultrie Junior Woman’s Club, and on the boards of United Way of Colquitt and Moultrie YMCA. Leigh, her husband, Ashley, and children, Raley, Ryan, and Rob, attend First Baptist Church of Moultrie.

Michael L. Fry (1992), Dacula, is the owner of Fry Landscaping Company. His wife is Stephanie, and they have a son, Hunter (13), and a daughter, Keelyn Wall (7). Email: frydaddy007@aol.com.

Lori Durden (2001), Tifton, is a leasing consultant for First Realty Management. Email: lori_durden@hotmail.com.

Lisabeth Da Silva, a Georgia Southern COE graduate, and a daughter, Keitti Wall (7). Email: lisabeth.dasilva@gsu.edu.

Lori is married to Alan C. Durden, a Georgia Southern civil engineer graduate. They have two children, Sophie (19) and Claire (17); the family resides in Woking, England.

R. Kenny Strickland (1994) recently moved to Monroe and started a regional printed and online magazine, Georgia Connector. Check it out at www.georgiaconnector.com. Email: kmsiley@georgiaconnector.com.

Rammel E. Tovar Leon (1998), Caracas, Venezuela, has a business that makes injection moulding products. He is married to Luisebeth Da Silva, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: rammelmedavaro@hotmail.com.

Stephen C. Metz (2003), Athens, is a staffing consultant with Randstad. He is married to Karah Higgins, a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: metzuga@yahoo.com.

Bruce A. Rosser, Jr. (2009), Sharpsburg, is the territory sales manager for Continental Tire Co. Email: bruce.rosser@contl-na.com.

Max Vandewiele (2010), Marietta, is the marketing director for Premier Systems Design (PSD). He traveled the country as a brand ambassador in grass roots marketing for GANZ, Inc. Email: maxvandewiele@yahoo.com.

Kyle Lee Kimmel (2003), Nichols, is now in Tifton, is now in TyTy, where she is the director of reimbursement for the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Albany. She is married to Adam Guarnieri, and they have a 16-month-old son. Candace received her CPA license in July 2009. Email: ckimmel@bchsi.org.

Candace P. Whittle (2006), formerly in Tifton, is now in TyTy, where she is the director of compliance for Georgia Southern University football program. She is engaged to Speer Brannen, a 2008 Georgia Southern construction management graduate. Email: brooklet2@georgiasouthern.edu.

Minister Michael Soeting (MBA, 1984) graduated from Georgia Southern, he went on to receive a doctorate in business administration and post-doctorate degree in The Netherlands. He is an Institute of Chartered Accountants member in The Netherlands, England, and Wales.

Michiel has been employed with KPMG LLP since 1987 and is currently based in London as global chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Industry sector. As lead partner for Royal Dutch Shell and consulting partner for the Gasprom and Repsol teams, he travels frequently.

Michiel and wife, Anna, have two children, Sophie (19) and Claire (17); the family resides in Woking, England.

Eagle Executive Society Alumni Questionnaire

I would like to become a member of the Eagle Executive Society. Enclosed is my check for $50.00.

Full Name (include maiden name) Spouse’s Full Name (include maiden name)
Georgia Southern Graduation Year(s) Degree(s) Major(s) Spouse Degree and Year
Home Address City State Zip
Home Phone Number ( ) Business Phone Number ( ) Cell ( )
Employer Business Title
Business Address City State Zip
E-Mail Address
Preferred Address for delivery Home Office

Please complete this form and return it to Lewis Stewart, COBA Alumni Editor, P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002.
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.

Marcia received her master’s 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, and Cooperative Extension 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! ♻️

Dust, Spiders, and Thieves, Oh My!

Laurie G. Dyke, CPA, CFF, CFE, CFC, received her accounting degree from the University of California at Berkeley 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 artist, self-dealing in corporate board-rooms, and false bank statements.

Forensic accounting, currently one of the hottest career paths in business, integrates accounting, auditing, and investigation. An undergradu-ate may receive a minor in forensic sciences by taking the macro fraud, micro fraud, white collar crime, fraud and the law, and forensic interviews, and inter rogation courses to prepare for certification testing as an examiner.

M.Acc students 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 pre-requireit for the five-course forensic concentration in the MAcc program. ♻️

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. ♻️

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 Develop-ment, 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.

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